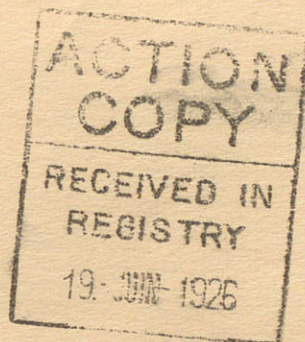


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# REPORT

BY

HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

TO THE

COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF

# 'IRAQ

FOR THE YEAR

1925.



## CONTENTS.

### I. SURVEY OF THE PERIOD.

	Page
1. Outline of Political Developments .. .. .	5
2. General Relations with Foreign Powers .. .. .	17
3. Relations with the Kurds .. .. .	18
4. Relations with Syria .. .. .	21
5. Relations with Arabia .. .. .	23
6. Relations with Persia .. .. .	25
7. Archaeology .. .. .	29
8. The 'Iraq Levies .. .. .	30

### II. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

1. Internal Administration .. .. .	00
2. Municipalities .. .. .	00
3. The 'Iraq Police .. .. .	00
4. The Jails Department .. .. .	00
5. Health Services .. .. .	00
6. Department of Agriculture .. .. .	00
7. Civil Veterinary and Remount Department .. .. .	00

### III. MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

1. General .. .. .	00
2. Cadre Commission .. .. .	00
3. Ottoman Public Debt .. .. .	00
4. Foreign Trade .. .. .	00
5. Customs and Excise .. .. .	00
6. Pensions .. .. .	00
7. Accounts Department .. .. .	00
8. Comptroller and Auditor-General .. .. .	00
9. The Budget and its Administration .. .. .	00
10. Financial Results of the year .. .. .	00
11. The Port of Basra .. .. .	00
Appendix 1. Financial Year 1924—Revenue .. .. .	00
Appendix 2. Financial Year 1924—Expenditure .. .. .	00

### IV. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.

1. General .. .. .	00
2. Court of Cassation .. .. .	00
3. Civil Courts of Original Jurisdiction .. .. .	00
4. Religious Courts and the Communities .. .. .	00
5. Criminal Courts .. .. .	00



6.	Court Fees .. .. .	00
7.	Advocates .. .. .	00
8.	Legislation .. .. .	00
9.	Tapu Department .. .. .	00

#### V. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.

1.	General Remarks .. .. .	000
2.	Operations .. .. .	000
3.	Recruiting .. .. .	000
4.	Military Education .. .. .	000
5.	Training .. .. .	000
	(a) Cavalry .. .. .	000
	(b) Artillery .. .. .	000
	(c) Infantry .. .. .	000
6.	Strength of Combatant Units .. .. .	000
7.	Ordnance Services .. .. .	000

#### VI. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS.

1.	Organisation and Scope .. .. .	000
2.	Irrigation Directorate .. .. .	000
3.	The Iraq Railways .. .. .	000
4.	Public Works Department .. .. .	000
5.	Survey Department .. .. .	000
6.	Posts and Telegraphs Department .. .. .	000

#### VII. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

1.	General .. .. .	000
2.	Finance .. .. .	000
3.	Training of Teachers .. .. .	000
4.	Government Schools .. .. .	000
5.	Non-Government Schools .. .. .	000
6.	Technical Education .. .. .	000
7.	Higher Schools .. .. .	000
8.	Tribal Education .. .. .	000
9.	Kurdish Schools .. .. .	000
10.	Fees .. .. .	000
11.	Scholarships Abroad .. .. .	000
12.	Health Conditions .. .. .	000
13.	Buildings .. .. .	000
14.	Conclusion .. .. .	000

#### VIII. MINISTRY OF AUQAF.

1.	Administration and Education .. .. .	000
2.	General .. .. .	000
3.	Ministers .. .. .	000
4.	Revenue and Expenditure .. .. .	000



## APPENDIX.

Tribal Criminal and Civil Disputes Regulation .. .. .	000
'Iraq Passport Law, 1923 .. .. .	000
'Iraq Residence Law, 1923 .. .. .	000
'Iraq Nationality Law, 1924 .. .. .	000
'Iraq Holy Shrines (Corpse Traffic) Law, 1924 .. .. .	000
Importation of Plants Law, 1924 .. .. .	000
Diseases of Animals Law, 1924 .. .. .	000
Forcible Assistance Law, 1923 .. .. .	000
Transit Trade Law, 1924 .. .. .	000
Transit Trade Agreement between the Governments of 'Iraq and Syria and the Lebanon .. .. .	000
Organic Law, Amendment Law, 1925 .. .. .	000
Regulations putting into force the Judicial Agreement, 1925 ..	000
Flax Cultivation Law, 1925 .. .. .	000
Law of Medical Practice in 'Iraq, 1925 .. .. .	000



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### I. SURVEY OF THE PERIOD.

#### 1. Outline of Political Developments.

##### POSITION AT THE OPENING OF THE YEAR 1925.

The year under review in this report is a period of steady progress during which a determined effort has been made to solve the financial and administrative problems which clog the feet of every newly established state. In 1924, the Constituent Assembly had accepted the treaty with Great Britain for a maximum period of four years dating from the ratification of peace between Great Britain and Turkey. It had also passed the Organic and Electoral Laws, thus providing the basis for a stable and constitutional government. The crucial question of the northern frontier, involving a claim by the Turkish Government to the whole of the former Mosul Wilayat, remained in dispute and was the dominant interest of the year 1925.

##### DISTRESS CAUSED BY THE SEVERITY OF THE WEATHER.

The winter of 1924-25 was marked by its extraordinary severity. In Baghdad, until the middle of February, the temperature fell frequently at night below freezing point; in the north and in the highlands of the eastern provinces, snow and extreme cold devastated the flocks, and if on the southern desert border the cold was less severe, both flocks and shepherds were less accustomed to bear it and suffered great distress. Very little rain fell and that which occurred during the frosts was useless to cultivators. The spring harvest was, in consequence, exceptionally bad and the summer harvest was equally affected by lack of water in the rivers for irrigation purposes. Already, in



February, the Council of Ministers agreed, at the suggestion of the High Commissioner to exempt from customs duties imported wheat, barley and flour in view of the alarming high prices which had been reached. But, in the north, the situation went from bad to worse owing to the ravages of locusts, and, by the autumn, the shortage of grain was so disastrous that steps for the relief of an almost starving population were necessary. Seed grain for the ensuing harvest had also to be provided in many parts of Iraq and loans issued to needy cultivators.

Hunger and poverty bore their natural result in an increase of petty crime. The road from Baghdad to Mosul, much used by motor cars, was the scene of a number of daring highway robberies and special precautions were needed to safeguard the road from Baghdad to Ramadi, a section of the overland route to Syria.

#### VISIT OF THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS FRONTIER COMMISSION.

In the early part of the year the chief pre-occupation was the visit of the Commission appointed by the Council of the League of Nations to advise it regarding the solution of the frontier question. This Commission reached Baghdad on 16th January, 1925. It was composed of three eminent nationals of Sweden, Belgium and Hungary, M. de Wirsén, the President, Colonel Paulis and Count Teleki, together with two Secretaries, Italian and Swiss, and three Assistant Secretaries. The Commission was provided with a Turkish Assessor, Jevad Pasha, who had previously been in command of Turkish forces on the frontier. A British Assessor, Mr. R. F. Jardine, was also appointed and was accompanied by Sabih Beg, a former Minister of Communications and Works, as the representative of the Iraq Government. Unfortunately an element of discord had been introduced in the persons of three Turkish "experts," two of whom were former inhabitants of Iraq and well known there. The first, Nadhim Beg Naftji Zadah, had been one of the leading members of the Turkish Committee in Kirkuk and had been closely implicated in a comprehensive scheme for the capture of Kirkuk and Arbil by Shaikh Mahmud of Sulaimaniya in the beginning of 1923. He had subsequently fled to Angora. The second, Fattah Beg, was Shaikh Mahmud's brother-in-law, and since 1921 had been his agent in correspondence with the Turks. Both had been put forward as representatives at Angora of the Mosul Wilayat, but their pretensions had been exposed by Sir Percy Cox at the Constantinople Conference in 1924. In accepting the proposal of the Turkish Government that they should accompany him, the President of the Commission had been unaware of their antecedents, but their presence not unnaturally caused indignation among Iraqis; the Prime Minister lodged a protest with the High Commissioner; and there was considerable apprehension lest these individuals should be assaulted by young and hot-headed nationalists. The problem of securing their safety, while not impinging on their free circulation, was a difficult one.



The Commission remained in Baghdad until 26th January and during its stay interviewed all leading persons in the town, Ministers, Government officials, and representatives of every class and community. They arrived at Mosul on 27th January, to find popular feeling running very high. Two days previously there had been formed a Committee of National Defence which proceeded at once to organize demonstrations in Mosul and establish branches in all the local towns. The protection of the two Turkish assessors was a matter of great delicacy, while organized demonstrations roused the suspicions of the Commission. The Ministry of Interior warned the Mutasarrif that the Nationalists were prejudicing the 'Iraq cause and, on 7th February, the High Commissioner flew up to Mosul in a snow-storm to dispel the misunderstandings which had arisen. It was arranged that the Commission should break up into groups in order to get through their work in time to present their report to the League in June and subsequently reunite at Sulaimaniya, Arbil, Kirkuk and Mosul. This programme was carried out successfully; the Turkish "experts" were, however, regarded with suspicion and, in Sulaimaniya, Fattah Beg thought it more prudent not to leave his house.

The Turkish Government had demanded that a plebiscite should be taken. This had been resisted by the British Government on the ground that no machinery could be devised with which to carry it out. The Commissioners finally decided to proceed by studying the racial, geographic and economic features of the problem and made secret enquiries among all sections of the population in the territories under dispute as to which government they would prefer, that of 'Iraq or Turkey. These secret enquiries, necessary as they may have been, tended inevitably to undermine the authority of the 'Iraq administration among the unruly tribes of the frontier districts and to aggravate the unrest naturally created by the state of uncertainty regarding the frontier itself.

One of the chief matters of concern to the Commission was the future of the Christians of Mosul and especially that of the Assyrian refugees, numbering some 20,000 souls, who, as related in former reports, had been settled temporarily on vacant 'Iraq lands near Amadia, while some had been encouraged to filter back to their deserted villages further north, only to be expelled once more by the Turkish incursion of September, 1924. It was largely in order to provide suitable homes for these people that the British Government had claimed for 'Iraq a part of the mountainous region lying north of the Brussels line, though this northernmost frontier, while regarded by the military authorities as strategically most defensible, did not include the whole of the area occupied by the Assyrians before the war. The Assyrians were united in a determination never again to submit themselves to Turkish rule, but were also suspicious of the 'Iraq administration as a predominantly Moslem Government. The Arabs and



Kurds, on the other hand, were inclined to resent any signs of special favour shown to the Assyrians by the British, and it has been the task of the High Commissioner to allay this mutual mistrust. The 'Iraq Government had, however, pledged itself officially to provide lands for such of the Assyrians as might be dispossessed of their homes in consequence of the final settlement of the frontier question and already, in 1924, had come to the aid of those who had been re-expelled by the Turks. As its report showed, the Frontier Commission fully appreciated the danger which would await not only the Assyrians, but the large Christian community of every denomination, if the former Wilayat of Mosul were handed back to Turkey.

The Commission terminated its labours in the third week of March: the Turkish "experts" returned by Jazirat ibn 'Umar and the European members, with Jevad Pasha, left Mosul on 23rd March, travelling through Syria. Its report could not be prepared in time for the June session of the League and was held over till September.

#### ELECTION OF THE FIRST PARLIAMENT.

The 'Iraq Government now addressed itself to the holding of its first parliament. The registers of primary electors under the Electoral Law, passed by the Constituent Assembly in 1924, had been begun before the end of that year, but progress was delayed by the fact that in many cases the estimates of male inhabitants made for the purpose of calculating the number of representatives to be assigned to each electoral college were palpably exaggerated. It was necessary to hold an enquiry before the election of secondary electors could be undertaken. This was done and on the results reported the Council of Ministers accepted the figures in some Liwas and in others ordered the Mutasarrifs to revise them. It was further considered inadvisable to proceed with elections until the Frontier Commission had finished its work. The promulgation of the Organic Law, passed by the Constituent Assembly in July, 1924, was consequently delayed, so as to avoid an interregnum between the close of Cabinet Government and the introduction of a parliamentary régime. The Law was officially issued on 21st March, 1925, amid widespread rejoicings, and orders were given for the initiation of elections.

#### MEASURES PASSED BY THE CABINET OF YASIN PASHA.

During this interval the Cabinet of Yasin Pasha had passed four notable measures vital to the future prosperity and stability of 'Iraq. In January, 1925, an agreement was signed with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for the dredging of the bar at the mouth of the Shatt al Arab, so as to allow vessels of heavy draught to enter the port of Basra. A trade transit convention with Syria was signed and came into effect on 1st April. In March, the Turkish Petroleum Company was granted a concession for the



development of oil throughout 'Iraq except the "Transferred Territories" (i.e. transferred from Persia to Turkey in 1913) and the region formerly the vilayet of Basra, the exact limits of the concession area to be defined as soon as the territorial limits of 'Iraq had been determined. There was some disagreement in the Cabinet over this measure and the Ministers of Justice and Education resigned. The Prime Minister asked the Minister of Communications and Works, who was by profession a barrister, to officiate in the Ministry of Justice, in addition to his other duties, and the portfolio of Education was accepted by a former incumbent of the office, 'Abdul Husain Chalabi, an enlightened Shi'ah notable of Kadhimain. The grant of the concession met with general public approval. The fourth measure, decided upon by the Cabinet in March, 1925, was an undertaking to offer long term contracts to British advisers and officials whose experience and devoted industry were thus secured for 'Iraq throughout the first and most difficult stage of her career as a quasi-independent state. Fifty-eight contracts for ten years and seven for five years were confirmed by Royal Irada during the next few months; nine more ten-year contracts have been approved and there are still other vacancies to be filled, nominations for which are under discussion. At the same time it was agreed to grant special contracts for short periods; the terms of these contracts have not yet been finally settled, but ten have been agreed upon in principle.

#### VISIT OF THE FINANCIAL MISSION

In February, His Majesty's Government proposed to send a Financial Mission to 'Iraq to study the financial situation. The offer was gladly accepted by the 'Iraq Government and the Commission, consisting of Commander Hilton Young, M.P., and Mr. Vernon, then an Assistant Secretary in the Middle East Department of the Colonial Office, arrived in March, 1925, and completed its Report\* by 25th April.

The Mission, while taking a favourable view of the future of the country, recommended the strictest economy on the part of the 'Iraq Government, and on the part of His Majesty's Government the cancellation of certain claims in respect of works of public utility transferred to 'Iraq. The Report was the cause of much satisfaction in 'Iraq and contributed to the election to the first 'Iraq Parliament of a majority of deputies actuated by the friendliest feelings towards the British Alliance.

#### VISIT OF THE SECRETARIES OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES AND AIR.

Another factor which affected the general situation very favourably was the visit to 'Iraq in the first half of April, 1925, of the Secretaries of State for the Colonies and Air, Mr. Amery

\* Cmd. 2438.



and Sir Samuel Hoare. Their presence cheered and encouraged those whose minds had been troubled by the uncertainty regarding the frontier and convinced the Government and people of 'Iraq of the steadfast interest of Great Britain in their affairs. It gave a unique opportunity to His Majesty King Faisal and the leading personages in 'Iraq, to bring their various difficulties and anxieties fully and frankly before the British Government, and the substitution of personal discussion for paper impersonalities had the happiest effect. Particularly valuable were the discussions which took place between Mr. Amery and King Faisal and his Prime Minister as to the prerogatives and duties of the King under the newly-promulgated Constitution, a question which urgently needed discussion, since His Majesty King Faisal had been inclined to withdraw more than was desirable from influencing the conduct of affairs of State after the coming into force of the Organic Law. The main preoccupation of the two Secretaries of State was, however, the more rapid improvement and training of the 'Iraq Army. Many conferences were held on this subject and, before the Secretaries of State left, a scheme had been accepted which should enable the 'Iraq Army in a short time to take the principal part in the maintenance of internal security and the control of the 'Iraq frontiers. This should relieve the British Exchequer of its burden on this account, which at present amounts to something over £3,000,000 a year.

#### DECISION OF THE CABINET TO HOLD AN EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF PARLIAMENT.

A difficulty had arisen from the fact that the Organic Law laid down that the ordinary session of Parliament must begin on 1st November and last for four months; there was no provision for a session at any other date, yet the necessity of passing the budget for the current year, as well as the general desire that parliamentary government should be begun, forbade a delay until November, 1925. The question was referred to a committee of leading 'Iraqi judges and lawyers which decided that an extraordinary session should be held to approve the budget and pass, under Article 18, the necessary amendments to the Organic Law to legalize the holding and prorogation of the session. This advice was accepted by the Council of Ministers in the middle of April.

#### NEW CABINET FORMED BY 'ABDUL MUHSIN BEG AT SA'DUN.

After the departure of the Secretaries of State the elections were pushed on. The Sulaimaniya division had been reconstituted in the preceding month of February and now duly returned four deputies. Elections were completed on 23rd June. There was no sign of any definite party activity, the various



political parties which had been constituted in former years having died of inanition. On completion of the elections, the Cabinet of Yasin Pasha resigned as, owing to differences of opinion between the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior ('Abdul Muhsin Beg), they felt that they could not face Parliament as a united Cabinet. The King invited Yasin Pasha to form a new Cabinet, and on his failing, invited 'Abdul Muhsin Beg to do so. The Cabinet of the latter took office on the 26th June, 1925. It was composed as follows :—

'Abdul Muhsin Beg, Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Rashid 'Ali Beg al Gilani, Minister of Interior.

Rauf Beg Chadirji, Minister of Finance.

Sabih Beg Nashat, Minister of Defence.

'Abdul Husain Chalabi, Minister of Communications and Works.

Naji Beg al Suwaidi, Minister of Justice.

Hikmat Beg Sulaiman, Minister of Education.

Hamdi Beg al Pachahji, Minister of Auqaf.

#### THE SENATE APPOINTED BY THE KING.

The election of eighty-eight deputies had now been completed and it remained for the King to announce his appointment of the twenty members of the Senate. Seventeen appointments were made by Royal Irada on 7th July, and three others at the beginning of August.

#### OPENING OF THE FIRST PARLIAMENT.

The first 'Iraq Parliament met on 16th July and was opened by King Faisal. In his speech from the throne, His Majesty reviewed the events of the year since the dissolution of the Constituent Assembly, explained why the Report of the Frontier Commission would not be presented to the League of Nations till September and declared his confidence that the rights of 'Iraq would be recognized. He alluded to discussions which were in progress for the amendment of certain provisions of the Agreements supplementary to the Treaty, and outlined the programme of the Government, laying special stress on the fact that in preparing the budget the fundamental principles of the report of the Financial Commission had been incorporated as far as was possible.

When His Majesty left, the two houses met in separate session and passed draft Standing Orders prepared by the Cabinet, after which every deputy and senator took the following oath :—

"I swear my allegiance to King Faisal by God and my honour, and that I will defend the Constitution, serve the nation and the country and faithfully discharge my duties."



The Chamber of Deputies then elected Rashid 'Ali Beg al Gilani the Minister of Interior, as President, while the Senate elected Yusuf Beg al Suwaidi. On accepting the presidency of the Chamber, Rashid 'Ali Beg was obliged to resign his portfolio. He was succeeded by Hikmat Beg Sulaiman who has filled this important office with signal success. Other small changes were made in the Cabinet later; 'Abdul Husain Chalabi returned to his former Ministry, Education, and on the resignation of Rauf Beg Chadirji on 1st November, Sabih Beg took the portfolio of Finance, Nuri Pasha Sa'id was appointed Minister of Defence while continuing his duties as Acting Commander-in-chief, and Amin Zaki Beg, one of the Kurdish deputies of Sulaimaniya, became Minister of Communications and Works.

The King took the oath prescribed by the Constitution at a joint session of the two chambers on 30th July. It runs as follows:—

“I swear by God that I will defend the Constitution and the independence of the country and that I will serve the country and the nation.”

#### QUALITIES OF THE TWO HOUSES.

The proceedings of Parliament have been conducted in a spirit of earnestness, good sense and moderation. In the Chamber of Deputies the Government has had a sure and compact majority, but the Opposition, led by Yasin Pasha, has proved itself generally a useful element in the debates. On the whole the lower house seems to be acquiring the respect of the public and establishing for itself a definite authority in the affairs of the country. The Senate, on the other hand, is a somewhat colourless body, its discussions lack vitality, and it is doubtful whether it could act, if called upon to do so, as a check upon the more vigorous elected chamber. The latter works through seven permanent committees; all bills put forward by the Cabinet are first referred to the appropriate committee, and returned to the house with such amendments as are thought desirable. As these amendments are usually accepted, the permanent committees play an important part in shaping legislation. The committees are chosen afresh at the beginning of each session.

#### LAW AMENDING THE CONSTITUTION.

##### DEPARTURE OF KING FAISAL.

The most urgent business at the beginning of the session was a law amending the Constitution, for no provision had been made therein for the appointment of a Regent in the absence of the King and the state of His Majesty's health necessitated his leaving at once for England to undergo medical treatment.



It was also incumbent on Parliament to provide for an extraordinary session if circumstances demanded it. The law was passed on 28th July. His Majesty appointed his younger brother the Amir Zaid as Regent, but as His Highness was in England, the Amir Sharaf, His Majesty's cousin, acted temporarily till 8th September, when the Amir Zaid arrived. The King left Baghdad on 5th August and travelled by car, via Palmyra and Homs, to Beirut where he embarked without delay.

A number of minor bills were presented to Parliament by the Cabinet and dealt with expeditiously, the standing orders were debated and passed, but the chief work of the session was the discussion of the budget, which was received and handed to the Budget Committee on 28th August. Its report on the draft bill was given in on 6th October. The Committee had devoted itself almost exclusively to trying to reduce expenditure; not all its recommendations were accepted, but the debates showed that the House shared the zeal of the Committee for economy. The budget was accepted on 25th October and the session came to a close on 28th October. Subsequently a number of general recommendations were presented by the Budget Committee and carefully considered by the Cabinet.

#### ACCEPTANCE OF THE CONDITIONS LAID DOWN IN THE REPORT OF THE FRONTIER COMMISSION.

Meantime, in August, 1925, the report of the Frontier Commission had been published. Before it could be translated *in extenso* the Prime Minister explained to the Chamber that it was proposed, if all the Mosul Wilayat were to be retained, that the relation of 'Iraq to the League of Nations should be prolonged for a period of about 25 years. He added that there was no one who did not recognize the value of the existing relations with Great Britain and the advantages to the country which had accrued therefrom. There was a striking unanimity in both Houses in favour of prolonging these relations and when the Council of the League met in September and Mr. Amery accepted on the part of the British Government the terms proposed by the Commission, both Chambers telegraphed to thank him for his defence of the rights of 'Iraq. It had indeed alarmed the ultra-nationalist party to find a section of the British press averse from the extension of the alliance. It was even suggested as a possible explanation that these British papers were in the pay of the Turkish Government. Though the settlement which had been hoped for was not reached at the September meeting, owing to the reference of certain legal points to the Permanent Court of International Justice at the Hague, the speeches of Mr. Amery and Mr. Baldwin had a most reassuring effect on public opinion and it was never doubted by the large majority of 'Iraqis that Great Britain would support their rights.



DEPORTATION OF CHRISTIANS AND KURDS BY THE TURKS  
AND APPOINTMENT OF A NEW FRONTIER COMMISSION BY  
THE LEAGUE.

In January, 1925, a protest had been lodged with the Turkish Government, through His Britannic Majesty's Representative in Constantinople, against violation of the *status quo* boundary. In May, a police patrol was ambushed south of the "Brussels" line by a band under Turkish instigation and, in June, enquiries were addressed by His Majesty's Government to the Turkish Government as to the reason for the large concentration of troops in the area north of the 'Iraq frontier, since it had been officially declared that the Kurdish rebellion had been suppressed. At the same time reports began to come in that the Turks were taking vengeance on the Christians and Kurds of Goyan, who had testified to the Frontier Commission their desire to be included in 'Iraq, and some 500 refugees arrived at Zakho. Early in September, reports began to be received of atrocities committed on Chaldaean villages north and also south of the provisional frontier. The villagers, though they had never taken part against Turkey during the war, were being systematically removed from the neighbourhood of the frontier and transported into the interior, but many escaped, in a pitiable state of destitution, and reached Zakho with tales of massacre and violence. The 'Iraq Ministry of Interior placed a sum of money at the disposal of the Mutasarrif of Mosul for the relief of these unfortunate people. Mr. Amery brought the matter in strong terms before the Council of the League at the meeting in September 1925, the Turkish delegate equally hotly denied the accusations; and the Secretary of State requested the Council to send an impartial commission to report on the matter and also on charges and counter-charges as to the violation of the provisional frontier. The Council entrusted the task to a distinguished Esthonian, General Laidoner, and the Commission arrived on 26th October. The Turkish Government refused to allow General Laidoner to pursue enquiries north of the "Brussels" line, so that the Commission had access to such evidence only as could be gathered within 'Iraq territory. Immediately before its arrival the refugee camps were visited by the General Secretary of the Friends of Armenia Society, who satisfied himself that the 'Iraq authorities were diligent in their efforts to succour the refugees, but that owing to their number and their desperate plight, help from outside was required. He sent telegrams to various Christian societies and communities, and a committee was formed in London to collect funds which were despatched to the High Commission and distributed through a committee of three British officers well acquainted with conditions on the frontier. In December Colonel Fergusson, a member of the King's Bodyguard, was sent out by the British committee to administer all monies collected.



#### WORK OF THE LAIDONER COMMISSION.

General Laidoner and his colleagues made a careful examination of the frontier and the relief camps, at the close of which the General telegraphed to the League, stating that the Turks had undoubtedly deported Christians from south of the "Brussels" line, that the deportees deposed that they had been removed by force and violence, and that the Turks had committed crimes, atrocities and massacres. He added that without means of enquiry on the Turkish side of the frontier, it was impossible to define the true reasons for the deportations of Christians, but that these deportations might well have results deserving the attention of the Council. As for the charges brought by either side of violation of the "Brussels" line, he had ascertained that the villages which the British Government claimed as belonging to 'Iraq, were actually south of the provisional frontier, but that, owing to errors in the maps, such misunderstandings were inevitable, and should not influence the League.

General Laidoner and part of the Commission left 'Iraq on 23rd November, but two members remained at Mosul to examine any further complaints which might arise. The full reports of the mission were presented to the Council of the League during the meeting in December, 1925.

#### SECOND SESSION OF PARLIAMENT OPENED AND ADJOURNED.

The second session of Parliament had been opened by the Amir Zaid on 1st November, but after the re-election of the two presidents, and the appointment of the permanent committees it was adjourned till 20th December.

#### RETURN OF KING FAISAL.

The King returned from Europe on 15th November, and was given a very brilliant reception on the aerodrome at Hinaidi, where he was received by the High Commissioner, the Air Vice-Marshal, the Ministers, Advisers and notables. The combination of power and discipline displayed on this occasion by the Royal Air Force, and other British forces, was the subject of much comment. The Amir Zaid, who had won the esteem of all while acting as Regent, went back to Oxford on 10th December.

#### ADVISORY OPINION OF THE PERMANENT COURT OF INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AT THE HAGUE.

The opinion of the Hague Court was received some ten days after His Majesty's return. It was to the effect that the "decision to be taken" by the League Council would be in the nature of an arbitral award binding on both parties, that this decision must be unanimous, and that though both Great Britain and



Turkey had the right to be represented and to vote, such votes, if adverse to the otherwise unanimous opinion of the Council of the League, would not be taken into count. This opinion was formally adopted by the League Council on 8th December.

#### THE HIGH COMMISSIONER CALLED TO LONDON.

The High Commissioner went on leave on 24th November, his departure having been hastened by the Secretary of State, who stood in need of his presence in London. The Counsellor, Mr. B. H. Bourdillon, has acted in the High Commissioner's place.

#### DECISION OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LEAGUE ON THE FRONTIER QUESTION.

The decision of the Council of the League on the frontier question was published in Baghdad on 17th December. The Council unanimously decided that the Turco-Iraq frontier should be the "Brussels line" on condition that Great Britain undertook by means of a new treaty with 'Iraq to continue her present relations with 'Iraq for a period of 25 years, unless before the expiry of that period 'Iraq were admitted to membership of the League. Further provisions dealt with the measures to be taken to secure for the Kurds in 'Iraq the guarantees in regard to local administration recommended by the Frontier Commission, measures to afford equal protection to all elements of the population and such commercial measures as were indicated in the special recommendations of the report of the Commission.

The Turkish delegate refused to recognize the arbitral authority of the League Council and was not present at the meeting. At its close, Sir Austen Chamberlain expressed the hope that the situation between Great Britain and Turkey would be regulated by friendly agreement between the two governments. This proposal is being followed up.

King Faisal telegraphed to King George his sincere thanks and gratitude. The Prime Minister telegraphed to Mr. Baldwin and to the Secretary-General of the League, and Mr. Amery was the recipient of many grateful messages. All through 'Iraq there was a general sense of deep relief, and of hope that the stability thus attained would be reflected in the prosperity which the country would now be able to achieve.

#### INITIATION OF DISCUSSIONS IN REGARD TO THE NEW ANGLO-'IRAQ TREATY.

Conversations with regard to the new treaty were begun before the end of the year. The King and the Cabinet showed the utmost willingness to comply with the request of Mr. Amery that the terms of the alliance should be accepted by Iraq before



the re-assembling of the British Parliament in the beginning of February, 1926. On the part of the Opposition, now definitely constituted under the name of the People's Party, with Yasin Pasha as leader, doubts were expressed as to the advantage to 'Iraq of the extension of the 1922 Treaty for 25 years, and more particularly of the similar extension of the subsidiary Agreements; but it was clear from the first that the majority, both inside the 'Iraq Parliament and outside, agreed that the permanent welfare of 'Iraq was bound up with her connection with her ally. To this was added the consideration that the period of the new instrument of alliance might, and most probably would, as Mr. Amery had stated, be reduced by the entrance of 'Iraq into the League of Nations, a step which the British Government would be as anxious as that of 'Iraq to bring about, since it would relieve Great Britain of the responsibilities imposed by the treaty.

#### POSITION AT THE CLOSE OF THE YEAR 1925.

Thus the close of the period under report saw the termination of doubts as to the integrity of the 'Iraq State, an uncertainty which had hung, since the initiation of self-government, as a dread over the future, impeding progress and the development of the sense of national unity. It witnessed an 'Iraq prepared to accept the terms laid down by the League of Nations, trusting in the policy from which her ally had never deviated, that of helping her to become an independent state, and, at the earliest opportunity, a member of the community of civilized nations. Constitutional Government as laid down in the Organic Law, has now been tested for eighteen months; the first Parliament has proved its capacity for dealing wisely and conscientiously with the measures brought before it; and the past year has given the country a sense of consolidated and established government which there is every ground to hope may increase with each successive year. It should therefore be possible for 'Iraq to satisfy the League of Nations, at no very distant time, of her fitness to become a member of the League. It remains for the British Government to secure an amicable settlement with Turkey and the delimitation of the western frontier with Syria, and the year ends with the hopeful anticipation that these conditions may shortly be accomplished.

#### 2. General Relations with Foreign Powers.

##### THE 'IRAQ MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS.

In March, 1925, an 'Iraq Ministry for Foreign Affairs was created, with the concurrence of the High Commissioner, who pointed out, however, that 'Iraq could have no direct relations with Powers which had not explicitly recognized her existence, and that even when 'Iraq had been formally recognized and an



accredited representative had been appointed by at least one party, direct correspondence on the part of the 'Iraq Ministry of Foreign Affairs must in every case be subject to prior consultation with the High Commissioner. He called attention to Article 1 of the decision of the Council of the League in September, 1924, by which His Britannic Majesty's Government is held responsible for the fulfilment by 'Iraq of the provisions of the Anglo-'Iraq Treaty in her relations with foreign powers. The portfolio has been held in two successive Cabinets by the Prime Minister.

#### 'IRAQ REPRESENTATIVE IN LONDON.

As yet the only representative of the 'Iraq Government abroad is Ja 'far Pasha el 'Askeri, who was sent to London in July, 1925. His official title is "'Iraq Diplomatic Agent in London." While his formal relations are with the Foreign Office, in practice he transacts official business with the Colonial Office direct. He was present at Geneva during the meetings of the Council of the League in September and December, 1925.

#### RECOGNITION OF 'IRAQ BY FOREIGN POWERS.

As regards the recognition of the 'Iraq State by foreign powers, whenever foreign governments express a desire to appoint a consular representative in 'Iraq, they are requested to apply through His Britannic Majesty's Government for His Majesty King Faisal's exequatur on the Consular Commissions and it is explained to them that such an application in itself constitutes *de jure* recognition of 'Iraq. In this way King Faisal has granted exequaturs to consular representatives of France, Italy, Norway and Sweden and these governments are therefore held to have recognised the 'Iraq State. The Persian Government has always maintained consuls in 'Iraq, and these have been allowed to carry on their functions, while 'Iraqi subjects in Persia have resort to the British consular service.

### 3. Relations with the Kurds.

Relations between the 'Iraq Government and the Kurdish population fall roughly under two heads, the situation in Sulaimaniya and that on the northern frontier.

#### SITUATION IN SULAIMANIYA.

At the close of the year 1924, Sulaimaniya town and the greater part of the Liwa had been placed loosely under the 'Iraq Government, though until peace was restored it was agreed that the High Commissioner should exercise direct control. Shaikh Mahmud was lurking on the frontier with a small band of followers and the province freed from him was rapidly recovering from the effects of his misgovernment. The visit of the Frontier



Commission, at the end of February, inspired him with hopes which were not fulfilled. That body decided that as an open rebel he could not be summoned to give evidence, but a great number of religious and tribal leaders were interviewed, among them Shaikh Mahmud's brother, Shaikh Qadir, who stoutly declared against a return to Turkish regime on the ground that the Turks had killed his father and one of his brothers.

Shaikh Mahmud's headquarters were in the eastern qadha of Sharbazher. He seized every opportunity to create disturbance and from time to time his bands levied tribute under the name of "taxes" from villages which were not in a position to resist them. In May, the annual migration of the Jaf to their mountain pasturages in Persia gave him appropriate material to work on and some sections of the tribe attacked a Levy column which was on its way from Sulaimaniya to garrison Halabja. With aerial support they were beaten off and the column took successful action against the offenders. In June, it was decided to forbid to Shaikh Mahmud the northern district of Sharbazher; a Qaimmaqam was established at Chaortah and administration was extended to the Persian frontier. At the same time, an element of disorder was removed by the departure of the Jaf; before they left, the 'Iraq Government was successful in raising from them an unexpectedly large proportion of the sheep tax. Shaikh Mahmud himself crossed into Persia where he has repeatedly succeeded in finding asylum. A demonstration was made by a united column from Chaortah through the Penjwin district, but it was not possible to set up administration in those remote hills which have continued to provide a focus whence rebel bands can carry on their depredations. The road from Sulaimaniya town to Halabja was secured by block-houses manned by police, but insurgence in the Qaradagh resulted in raids into the adjacent districts which have been dealt with by the police supported by aerial action, and if necessary by sections of the 'Iraq Army.

In August, the Jaf began their migration back into 'Iraq. Shaikh Mahmud did his utmost to enlist their support and gather the sheep tax from them, but proclamations were dropped on them by air warning them not to take part in hostile activities, and, in September, a column from Sulaimaniya forced Shaikh Mahmud to retire again across the frontier. The Jaf then marched southwards and paid their sheep tax to the 'Iraq Government, leaving Shaikh Mahmud so much straitened by lack of funds that he was obliged to disperse the rank and file of his followers.

In November, a settlement was effected between the two sections of the Pizhder tribe, one of which had long been hostile and ever ready to take part with Shaikh Mahmud. Thus at the end of the year 1925, though he was still hovering between the



Persian hills and Penjwin, the northern half of Sharbazher had been brought under control, Shaikh Mahmud's credit with the Jaf had been much diminished, if not broken, and the hostile Pizhder pacified. To suppress guerilla warfare in a mountainous country is necessarily a lengthy business, but it may fairly be said that good progress has been made.

#### KURDISH REFUGEES FROM TURKEY.

On the northern frontier the problem of the 'Iraq Government has been chiefly how to deal with Kurdish refugees from Turkey. After the execution, at Diarbekr, by the Turkish Government, of one of the best known Kurdish nationalists, Shaikh 'Abdul Qadir of Neri, one of his sons, Shaikh 'Abdullah, made a temporarily successful stand against the Turks in June. In July, he contrived to send a letter to the High Commissioner, through his cousin, Saiyid Taha, who is Qaimmaqam of Ruwandiz, asking for help against the Turks or permission to seek asylum in 'Iraq. The High Commissioner instructed Saiyid Taha to reply that the 'Iraq Government was not at war with Turkey and could not encourage any hostilities against the Turks, and that if Shaikh 'Abdullah took refuge in 'Iraq he could not be permitted to remain in the neighbourhood of the frontier. The Turkish Government was also informed of this reply and at the same time it was pointed out that the British Government expected reciprocal action on the part of Turkish frontier officials. In August, Shaikh 'Abdullah was heavily defeated and with 200 families he fled over the border. He came to Baghdad in September, saw the High Commissioner and declared his willingness to obey the 'Iraq Government. He was given permission to settle with his followers in deserted villages sufficiently far from the frontier to prevent any trouble arising with the Turks.

A son and a brother of Shaikh Sa'id, the leader of the Kurdish rebellion in Anatolia, have also sought refuge in 'Iraq. The first came to Baghdad and was told by the High Commissioner that no assistance could be given to any form of Kurdish nationalist movement in Turkey; the second was allowed to live in the Sulaimaniya Liwa.

#### GENERAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE 'IRAQ GOVERNMENT AND 'IRAQI KURDS.

With the sole exception of Shaikh Mahmud and his band of outlaws, the Kurds of 'Iraq tend more and more to play their natural part in the national life of the country. Already in 1924, Kurds sat in the Constituent Assembly; in 1925, Kurdish notables were elected in Arbil, Kirkuk, Mosul and Sulaimaniya, indeed all the members from Arbil, Kirkuk and Sulaimaniya are Kurds. In the Senate and in the Cabinet the Kurds are represented, an assurance that Kurdish interests will not be neglected. On its side, the Government of 'Iraq shows no tendency to attempt to denationalize the Kurds. The system of employing Kurdish



officials in Kurdish districts has long been accepted, together with the use of the Kurdish language in the schools and local official correspondence is conducted in Kurdish, if desired. In respecting Kurdish susceptibilities the 'Iraq Government has rightly comprehended that a united State can be built up of diverse elements and has set an example among Near Eastern countries.

#### 4. Relations with Syria

##### THE OVERLAND ROUTES.

Among the most important of the interests common to the 'Iraq and the Syrian Governments is the protection and development of the Overland routes. Identical rules have been passed by the two administrations for the regulation of transport and both have taken prompt measures against any infraction of their security. On the 'Iraq side a very serious incident occurred in March, 1925, when the outgoing convoy of the Eastern Transport Company was attacked by brigands of the Dulaim tribe and the wife of the French Vice-Consul killed. It is to the credit of the 'Iraq Police and Desert Force that they recovered all money and valuables looted and caught the culprits who were condemned to death and hanged. At the same time, on a suggestion from the High Commissioner, compensation was obtained by insisting on tribal responsibility, under the Tribal Disputes Regulations, and a fine of Rs.10,000 was levied. As a means of affording better security to the trans-desert route, the French authorities suggested a monthly liaison of armoured cars from Syria and 'Iraq. This was agreed to, together with periodical meetings between the Camel Corps of either country. But in August, the Druze rising produced serious dislocation. On the 13th and 26th of August, Nairn convoys from Baghdad were attacked and looted near Damascus. In the second attack the convoy leader succumbed to his wounds. On this occasion the *délégué* at Damascus recognized the principle of tribal responsibility for compensation. The French authorities then took measures to escort motor convoys through the danger zone, but these did not prove sufficient on the Nairn route, where an escorted convoy travelling from Damascus was attacked and obliged to turn back on 11th September. Steps were taken, therefore, to develop the route via 'Amman by which the Nairn convoys have travelled regularly all through the winter. It has the disadvantages of being longer and of running over tracts more difficult for the passage of cars, but it can be protected throughout by British patrols. No danger from tribes or robbers has been experienced since the spring in any part of the 'Iraq side of the desert, and the Eastern Transport Company, though obliged to divert its route in Syria, has continued to travel in safety on this side of the frontier. Steps are under consideration for the amalgamation of the two companies.



## TRANSIT TRADE AGREEMENT.

The agreement concerning Syrian transit trade through 'Iraq to Persia has already been mentioned.

## TRIBAL CLAIMS BETWEEN SYRIA AND 'IRAQ.

With regard to the settlement of claims between tribes on either side of the frontier, little progress has been made. Vigorous efforts were made by the 'Iraq Government, urged thereto by the High Commissioner, to prevent the Shammar from raiding the Syrian 'Anizah, according to their secular habit. A source of disquietude has been the rivalry between the Shammar chief, Diham al Hadi, who moved into Syrian territory in 1922, and his cousin, 'Ajil al Yawar, recognized by the 'Iraq Government as chief of the 'Iraq Shammar. In August, the High Commissioner proposed to General Sarraill a conference of 'Anizah and Shammar chiefs from either side of the frontier, with a view to concluding mutual agreements for the cessation of raiding, but the General, while emphasizing his strong objection to trans-frontier raiding, whatever might have been the ancient custom of the tribes, thought that no useful purpose would be served by holding another conference until the decisions given at Albu Kamal in 1924 had been executed. In November the Administrative Inspector of Dulaim visited the French authorities at Albu Kamal. In a friendly discussion of outstanding frontier questions, it was found that a number of raids had occurred since the Albu Kamal meeting, swelling the claims on either side, while not much had been done to enforce the awards there given, but until more settled conditions in Syria are restored, little progress in this direction can be expected.

## THE SYRIA-'IRAQ PROVISIONAL FRONTIER.

No delimitation of the frontier between 'Iraq and Syria has yet been made and the situation remains as it has been since 1923 when General Gouraud agreed that the 'Iraq should administer provisionally the whole of the Jebal Sinjar and an area to the west as far as Khatuniyah, Syria, in exchange, continuing to administer the whole of Albu Kamal on the Euphrates, which is likewise bisected inconveniently by the frontier laid down in the Anglo-French Convention of 1920.

## EFFECT ON 'IRAQ OF THE DISORDERS IN SYRIA.

It could not be expected that the outbreak of troubles in French mandated territory would not find some repercussion in 'Iraq, but the vernacular press has most creditably abstained from comments and has confined itself almost wholly to quotations from Egyptian, Syrian, Palestinian and French papers. On



29th October, after the bombardment of Damascus, the Syrian situation was debated in the 'Iraq Chamber of Deputies and a resolution was passed running as follows:—

“Events in Syria have developed and assumed a terrible phase, causing much loss of life and property, and much pain to us. We suggest that the Chamber should express its sympathy with this tragedy and that Government should be asked to take such steps as it can to lighten the effect of these incidents.”

The debate would not have been permitted if the 'Iraq Government had not been taken by surprise. On the following day a mourning service was held at one of the Baghdad mosques, and those present were asked to subscribe to a Syrian relief fund. Subsequently, permission was given to an influential committee, headed by the leader of the Opposition, to collect subscriptions for Syria. The response has been small.

The 'Iraq Government has realized the loyal efforts of the French authorities to prevent the unauthorized passage of Turkish troops eastward across the Syrian section of the Baghdad railway to the northern frontier of 'Iraq.

News which appeared in the public press of King Faisal's conversations in Paris with Monsieur Briand and others, in October, and of the visit of Monsieur de Jouvenel (the newly appointed High Commissioner for Syria) to London to confer with the Secretaries of State for Foreign Affairs and the Colonies showed the importance attached by the French Government to maintaining cordial relations between Syria and the neighbouring States of 'Iraq, Palestine and Trans-Jordan, and if some disappointment has been felt at the prolongation of disturbances in Syria, King Faisal and his Cabinet have maintained a strict neutrality with regard to affairs in that country.

## 5. Relations with Arabia.

### MEASURES TAKEN TO PROTECT THE 'IRAQ SHEPHERD TRIBES.

It is satisfactory to record the marked improvement during the year 1925, of the relations between 'Iraq and Nejd. The end of 1924 had witnessed a series of raids by the Akhwan on the 'Iraq shepherd tribes, the last of which occurred on 12th January, 1925. A few days later a scheme which had been devised for the better protection of the tribes was put into action and the post of Abu Ghar, 45 miles south of Nasiriya, was garrisoned by the 'Iraq Army supported by armoured cars. A wireless station was established there and the post was maintained until the grazing season ended at the beginning of June, 1925, and re-established in November when the tribes began to move out once more. This post, supplemented by incessant air reconnaissances, enabled a constant watch to be kept on the desert.



### NEJD REFUGEES REMOVED FROM THE FRONTIER.

The old source of friction still remained in the presence in 'Iraq of a small number of refugees from Nejd, sections of the Mutair, 'Ataibah and Harb, which used the hospitality of 'Iraq to carry on their old feuds with the tribes of Nejd. Their activities were greatly resented by the 'Iraq tribesmen, who realized that they provoked counter-attacks from Nejd which fell on themselves and wrecked the security of the desert. The occurrence of renewed raiding by the refugees, early in 1925, was all the more unfortunate as it was believed that Ibn Sa'ud, in consequence of the High Commissioner's protests against the acts perpetrated by his tribes, had forbidden all further raids on 'Iraq, a report which was confirmed later by the Sultan himself in replying to the High Commissioner. Urged by the latter to take strong measures for dealing with the refugees, the 'Iraq Government summoned the leaders to Nasiriya where they were bidden to collect all booty which had been taken and to remove their tribesmen from the frontier. In May, 1925, the refugees, some 50 tents with an aggregate of 500 souls, were assembled at Jaliba, south of Nasiriya, and under the vigilant eye of the Royal Air Force were escorted into the Dulaim Liwa where they dispersed among the tents of the 'Anizah. The camels they had looted were collected near Nasiriya and the Nejd Government was requested to send up their owners to identify and take possession of them.

In pursuance of the policy of avoiding troubles created by refugees, one of the Shammar chiefs of Nejd, who in April, 1925, arrived in 'Iraq territory with a few followers and asked permission to settle, was bidden by the 'Iraq authorities to return at once to his own country.

### AKHWAN RAID ON THE DHAFIR.

Ibn Sa'ud was engaged in operations in the Hejaz and in June his orders were disobeyed and a serious raid was carried out on the Dhafir by the Akhwan. Over 1,500 camels were taken and twelve of the Dhafir killed. The High Commissioner renewed his representations to the Sultan and pointed out to him that the 'Iraq Government was taking every possible step to prevent hostilities. Thereupon Ibn Sa'ud gave instructions that the camels looted should be collected in Riyadh whither representatives of the Dhafir were invited to go to receive them.

### EFFECT ON 'IRAQ OF EVENTS IN THE HEJAZ.

Events in the Hejaz produced a slight reaction in 'Iraq. In September, 1925, the Chamber of Deputies passed a protest against the war carried on by the Wahabis. This was transmitted to the British Government through the High Commissioner.



### THE BAHRA AGREEMENT.

But preparations for the conference at Bahra were already in progress, a representative of the 'Iraq Government had been selected to join Sir Gilbert Clayton, and on 1st November, 1925, an agreement\* between the 'Iraq and Nejd was completed. All points which had been settled before the Kuwait Conference broke up, in 1924, were ratified and it was laid down that a joint tribunal should be appointed to fix responsibility for future raids and assess damages. Ibn Sa'ud accepted important points with regard to the treatment of refugees which had been put forward at Kuwait by the 'Iraq representative with the approval of the British Government, and it was agreed that the question of extradition should be decided by friendly negotiations between the two Arab States. Sir Gilbert Clayton brought the agreement to Baghdad where it received the informal approval of King Faisal, and on 3rd December, at a special meeting of the Cabinet, Sir Gilbert made a statement on the negotiations and explained the clauses of the agreement. The Cabinet thanked him warmly for having carried out his mission on behalf of 'Iraq and expressed the hope that the Agreement would lead to friendly and stable relations.

### SECURITY IN THE DESERT.

In the winter season, closing the year under report, there has been security on the desert borders. The shepherd tribes have gone out to their pasturages; when, according to their custom, they have crossed the Nejd frontier, they have concluded arrangements for their own safety with Ibn Sa'ud's representative, the Governor of Hail, by whom they were invited to return to their old grazing grounds. These peaceful conditions have enabled them to profit by the plentiful supply of grass which has followed on the good rains of the autumn and winter.

### 6. Relations with Persia.

#### NON-RECOGNITION OF THE 'IRAQ STATE BY PERSIA.

No further steps have been taken for the recognition of the 'Iraq State by the Persian Government. Relations between the two countries are still conducted through the High Commissioner and His Britannic Majesty's Minister in Tehran.

#### THE PILGRIMAGE.

The embargo placed on the pilgrimage in 1923 was removed in the autumn of 1925 and many thousands of Persian pilgrims visited the holy cities of 'Iraq before the end of the year. The railways have greatly benefited, but their existence has changed the character of the pilgrimage, which is now performed much more speedily and cheaply than before.

\* Cmd. 2566.



## CHANGE OF DYNASTY.

On the deposition of the Shah, the ex-Vali Ahd arrived in Baghdad on 5th November, on his way to Europe. The mother of Sultan Ahmad Shah with several members of his family had reached Baghdad a few days previously, intending to return to Persia. When they heard of the dynastic change they revised their plans and left for India. Little or no interest was taken in 'Iraq in the change of Government in Persia which was felt to be a domestic revolution concerning Persians only. Persian divines living in the holy towns have abstained from comment.

## PUSHT-I-KUH.

The Persian Government has been engaged in setting its house in order, a process entailing the substitution of a centralized government for semi-independent rulers in the provinces on its western frontier and an inevitable period of dislocation. The 'Iraq Government has been careful not to be drawn into any controversy that may have arisen between Persian authorities and their subjects, but at the same time to maintain, through the intervention of the High Commissioner, its own rights under changing conditions. Thus, when at the beginning of the year, the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh, alarmed by the appearance of Persian troops in his country, took refuge at Badra, the High Commissioner informed him that if he wished to remain in 'Iraq, he must dwell at some distance from the frontier. He was persuaded, subsequently, to make his peace with the Persian Prime Minister and to return to Pusht-i-Kuh.

## SALAR AL DAULAH AND SHAIKH MAHMUD.

In April, Salar al Daulah, brother of the deposed Muhammad 'Ali Shah, made a sudden appearance at Kadhimain and, without permission, left at once for the Persian frontier of Sulaimaniya Liwa, where he proceeded to enter into negotiation with Persian chiefs for the purpose of raising rebellion against their government. A message from the High Commissioner was delivered to him, strictly enjoining him to report to the British Administrative Inspector, Sulaimaniya, failing which he would be considered as an enemy of the British Government. He returned rambling replies and at the end of July it was learnt that he was maturing plans for a general rising in Persian Kurdistan and had induced Ja'far Sultan of Auraman to join him. Ja'far Sultan, though a Persian subject, owns a number of villages on the 'Iraq side of the frontier and on this account has official relations with the 'Iraq Government towards which he has been friendly and helpful. The High Commissioner sent him a personal letter advising him to have nothing to do with the fantastic schemes of Salar al Daulah and he withdrew, thereupon, from the movement. Shaikh Mahmud was at the time a refugee over the Persian border, although representations had been made to the Persian Government asking that he might receive the same



treatment which had been accorded to the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh and removed from the neighbourhood of the frontier. It seemed possible that H.H. the Prime Minister of Persia might be induced to enter into a concerted movement with an 'Iraq column in order to dispose at once of the two rebels, Salar al Daulah and Shaikh Mahmud ; but the defection of Ja'far Sultan destroyed all danger of a general Kurdish rising in Persia and the scheme did not materialize. In October, the Air Officer Commanding in 'Iraq, Sir John Higgins, flew to Tehran to discuss the project fully with the Prime Minister. It was decided that it was too late in the year for troops to operate in the Auraman mountains and no further action was taken, except that the High Commissioner has, so far, succeeded in keeping Ja'far Sultan from embroiling himself with his government.

#### INFRACTIONS OF THE 'IRAQ FRONTIER.

On several occasions the High Commissioner has been obliged to protest against infractions of the 'Iraq frontier on the part of Persian officials. These have occurred from the direction of Pusht-i-Kuh, but more especially on the Shatt al Arab. In 1924, Persian Customs officers had stopped vessels in 'Iraq waters in spite of protest. In July, 1925, serious incidents occurred in connection with the attack on Mohammerah by a large body of insurgent Muhaisin tribesmen. Persian forces at 'Abadan went the length of firing on the boats of 'Iraq subjects in 'Iraq waters ; the boats were then chased by a Persian launch and brought into Abadan. Against these and other infractions of the frontier the High Commissioner protested strongly on behalf of the 'Iraq Government to the Persian Government through His Britannic Majesty's Minister. The Persian Government, on its side, declared that 'Iraqis had been among those who attacked Mohammerah and that many of these persons had returned to 'Iraq territory. Their extradition was demanded. Close investigations did not establish this accusation, but it was shown that the 'Iraq Government had taken steps to prevent its subjects from participating in the disturbances. Moreover, the High Commissioner pointed out that neither the laws of 'Iraq nor the provisional extradition agreement with Persia permitted such extradition, but that under the Tribal Disputes Regulations a person considered to be dangerous might be required to reside at any specified place and that in this way the 'Iraq Government could remove suspects from the vicinity of the frontier. His Excellency refuted also a claim that members of the Muhaisin and Cha'ab tribes, though residing on the 'Iraq side of the frontier, should be considered as Persian subjects. They had in the past admitted a vague allegiance to the Shaikh of Mohammerah. The High Commissioner demonstrated that such a claim was not based on principles which were in conformity with the practice of coterminous states in regard to tribes partitioned by their frontier.



### PERSIAN GOVERNMENT'S MONOPOLY IN TEA AND SUGAR.

Towards the end of May, considerable consternation was caused among the mercantile community of Baghdad by a report that the Persian Government proposed creating a Government monopoly for the purchase, transport and sale of tea and sugar, with an increase in cost to the consumer of two krans per batman of sugar and six krans per batman of tea. A copy of the text of the bill was received by the High Commissioner from Tehran on 2nd June, and was at his suggestion examined by a conference presided over by the Minister of Finance at which the British Chamber of Commerce, the local mercantile community, the Railways and the Customs Department were represented. The conference raised certain queries on the draft law which were embodied in a telegram addressed by the High Commissioner to His Britannic Majesty's Minister, Tehran.

Further information received from Tehran in reply indicated:—

- (i) That the Persian Government did not intend to operate the monopoly as such, for several years.
- (ii) That in the meantime licenses for normal consignments would be issued free.
- (iii) That the sur-tax on tea and sugar was retrospective and applied to all consignments cleared through Customs after 12th March.
- (iv) That the bill had been ratified by the Majlis.

After a period of anxiety almost approaching panic among the Baghdad merchants, producing reports that the customs duties had been doubled and that all consignments had been held up at the frontier—reports subsequently contradicted or explained—the atmosphere has become calmer. It was realized that for the present the tea and sugar trade would not be seriously affected and that the sur-tax will eventually be passed on to the consumer. The British Chamber of Commerce has sent up a representative to remain at Kermanshah for some time and make himself familiar with the new situation.

### RUSSIAN PREFERENTIAL TARIFF.

In August, reports reached Baghdad that the Russians had imported consignments of loaf-sugar to Hamadan and Kermanshah, where, owing to the preferential customs tariff which they enjoy on the north Persian trade route, they were able to sell it at a cheaper rate than the sugar imported from Baghdad. It was found, however, that at Hamadan no large stocks of Russian sugar were available and that, though the sugar was being sold at a slightly cheaper rate than that imported from 'Iraq, it was too hard to suit the needs of the Persians, and those who bought it were unable to resell it advantageously. In consequence, the price of sugar imported from 'Iraq, which had



fallen when the Russian sugar appeared on the market, began to recover. Nevertheless, the preference given to the Russians makes the position unsatisfactory and undoubtedly influences the sugar trade. In the financial year of 1924-25, 122 lakhs worth of sugar were re-exported from 'Iraq to Persia, while during the first eight months of the financial year 1925-26 only about 30 lakhs had been re-exported.

#### THE GANGIR.

In October, a temporary settlement was reached between the Persian authorities and a representative of the 'Iraq Government over the vexed question of the distribution of the water of the Gangir. The Turko-Persian Frontier Commission had laid down that the water should be distributed in equal parts between Mandali and Saumar, but when the Saumar valley had been in the hands of the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh, the people of Mandali had never been able to obtain their fair share of the water. It was now agreed that until the rainy season set in, one-third of the water would be enough to satisfy the needs of the Mandali cultivators, but in acquiescing in this arrangement the 'Iraq Government in no way abandoned its rights in the future to its full share.

#### SEIZURE OF BRITISH OR 'IRAQI TRANSPORT.

A difficult situation arose in November, when, owing to the extreme shortage of grain in Tehran, the Persian authorities decided to commandeér all available transport to carry surplus grain from Hamadan and Kermanshah to the capital. His Britannic Majesty's Minister made urgent representations against the seizure of British or 'Iraqi transport and the 'Iraq Government offered to forego transit dues on consignments of grain and lorries to be imported into Persia through 'Iraq. A friendly agreement was reached early in December, under which the 'Iraq transport was to take over all traffic between Khanaqin and Qasr-i-Shirin, using 2,000 camels and giving grain the preference over other merchandize. Any surplus of this transport could be used on the Qasr-i-Shirin-Hamadan road, the Persian authorities ensuring that a proportion of such transport should be used for merchandize.

It will be seen that in all matters of interest to both countries the 'Iraq Government has done its best to co-operate with the Persian Government through the High Commissioner.

#### 7. Archæology.

The excavations at Ur and at Kish were continued during the first months of the year and reopened in the autumn of 1925. The results have been as satisfactory as in past years and many valuable objects have been added to the Baghdad Museum, while the museums engaged on the two sites have received their



due share. It is not too much to say that the scientific exploration of these ancient cities has yielded material in the light of which the knowledge of the earliest civilizations in southern Mesopotamia has been in part revised and in all directions broadened to a surprising extent.

A small but fruitful excavation was undertaken in the spring of 1925, at Tarkalan, ten miles west of Kirkuk, by the Baghdad Museum in conjunction with the American School of Historical Research, represented by Professor Chiera. A large and commodious private house was discovered, with pottery of new types and about a thousand tablets. These are now being studied and it is hoped that they may yield information on the little known Mitanni culture which flourished in that area. In the winter of 1925, the American School was represented by Dr. Dougherty who has been engaged in a survey of the southern hills.

One of the recommendations of the Budget Committee of the Constituent Assembly was that the Museum at Baghdad should be allotted a suitable building for the exhibition of a collection which has now reached high interest and value. The Cabinet was in favour of the suggestion and at the close of the year arrangements for the better accommodation of the Museum were well under way.

It was also decided to transfer the Department of Antiquities from the Ministry of Communications and Works to that of Education, but the requisite legislation had not been promulgated at the end of the period under report.

## 8. The 'Iraq Levies.

### GENERAL.

The Levy Force, during the year under review, has been chiefly employed on garrison duty along the northern frontier, varied with minor operations in the Sulaimaniya and Amadia areas against occasional recalcitrant Kurdish chiefs. Nothing in the nature of organized brigade operations, such as were so successfully undertaken in 1923, have been attempted.

The minor operations undertaken have met with a good measure of success and, in the Sulaimaniya area, where a certain number of 'Iraq Army troops were also placed under the command of the Levy Battalion Commander, a very successful small action was fought at Kinaru in June.

The units not employed with these small columns have carried out a good deal of useful reconnaissance work along the mountain frontiers bordering on Persia and Turkey as well as in the plains.



Much anxiety has been felt among the Assyrian units as to their future, and this anxiety and the acute distress prevailing among their nation have been among the factors which have made the task of their British regimental officers more delicate and difficult than ever before.

Recruiting has been remarkably good and, as a result of the famine conditions prevailing among the refugees (a form of economic conscription they have found it impossible to resist), there are more recruits than there are vacancies available; although the discharge of all Bohtan and Zakho Christians, who were found thoroughly unsuitable, has taken place during the year.

#### TRAINING.

Training has proceeded along normal lines during the period. As the exigencies of the military situation do not admit of units being withdrawn periodically from the frontier outposts for training, it is necessary to have a series of Instructors' courses at the Levy Depot where recruits spend twelve weeks before being posted to units. In addition to the general training courses referred to above, the Depot also trains and instructs all signallers and machine gunners. Training is naturally greatly assisted by the keenness and *esprit-de-corps* of all ranks.

#### DISCIPLINE AND HEALTH.

The discipline and turn-out during the year has been remarkably good and has been very favourably commented on by the different inspecting officers, including the Secretaries of State for Air and the Colonies. The health of the Force has, as a whole, been satisfactory. The deaths of Lieutenants J. E. Griffith and G. D. E. Heather in aeroplane accidents were a great loss to the Force.

The 'Iraq Levies at present, in addition to a Headquarters, Depot and ancillary services, consist of two Cavalry Regiments, four Infantry Battalions, a Pack Battery and a Machine Gun Company, all fully equipped for the exigencies of frontier warfare and ready at any moment to take the field.

## II. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR.

### 1. Internal Administration.

#### ORGANIZATION.

There have been no changes in the organization of administration during the year under report. The general standard of efficiency among the Arab officials employed by the 'Iraq Government in administration continues to rise as their experience increases.



## IMPROVED GOVERNMENT CONTROL.

The salient feature of the year's work may be said to be a general improvement in Government control over the tribes. The reports of Administrative Inspectors from all parts of the country are alike in this respect. One of the most satisfactory items is the result of the action taken against one of the southern chiefs in December, 1924. Salim al Khaiyun had come to be regarded as paramount shaikh over the whole of the Hammar Lake and as far east as the boundary of the Basra Liwa. He farmed the more important Government taxes, entirely dominated the Government representative, the Mudir of Chabaish, and paid no attention to the orders of the Mutasarrif. After his removal, Chabaish was converted into a Qadha and a Qaimmaqam appointed. The new organization did more than justify itself. In 1924, the revenue returns for the two Nahiyahs of Chabaish and Suq were less than the returns in 1925 for Chabaish alone, while the Hammar area, which had been the scene of constant tribal disturbances, has given no further trouble. Such has been the result of the substitution of direct Government control for that of the local shaikh.

To take another instance where development in the same direction is proceeding normally: in 'Amara, while it is not desirable to break up prematurely the management of large estates by their shaikhly lessees, in two areas where the shaikhs had lost prestige, it was possible to establish direct control by Government over the former sub-lessees. There has also been a marked tendency for the police to rely less on the assistance of the shaikh in the maintenance of law and order; it is now the shaikh who turns to the police for help.

The improvement of communication by road reacts favourably on the authority of Government. This is the case not only in 'Amara, but in other tribal Liwas, notably in Diwaniya, where regions almost impenetrable to land traffic are being opened up. Increased control on the part of the central authority is evident in this Liwa also. The rights of sub-lessees as against the land-grabbing proclivities of the shaikh have been protected and long-drawn out disputes between shaikhs over the boundaries of their estates are in the course of elucidation and settlement.

Again, on the northern frontier, the authority, and consequently, in many cases, the power for evil, of the Kurdish Aghas has largely been reduced or dissipated, and the Government Mudir has a sufficient measure of influence.

## TRIBAL DISPUTES REGULATIONS.

These good results have been obtained by a policy at once firm and sympathetic. While the essentials of administration are upheld, such as the protection of law and order and the payment of Government demands, the tribesman is given, by means of the



Tribal Disputes Regulations, justice which he understands and approves. By these Regulations, purely tribal cases are not subjected to the decision of the ordinary Courts, but come before a tribal Majlis, the judgments of which are confirmed, or sometimes amended, by the Mutasarrif, with due regard to tribal custom. A more constant application of the Regulations to settled tribesmen has been made in the Mosul Liwa and has been found to meet legal needs better than a reference to Courts where frequently the evidence is insufficient for conviction, though the perpetrators of the crime are generally known and can be brought to book in the tribal Majlis.

The Regulations have proved valuable to the 'Iraq Government in another direction, inasmuch as they give the civil authority power to bind over an individual, whose presence in any area may be inexpedient, to live where prescribed. By this means it has been possible to remove from the frontier refugees from Turkey, or elsewhere, who might have used 'Iraq as an asylum from which to prosecute their private ends and cause trouble with a neighbouring state.

## 2. Municipalities.

Of the three capital towns of 'Iraq, Baghdad, Basra and Mosul, it may generally be said that the duties which the municipalities are expected to perform, or indeed should normally perform, are in excess of their financial powers. Large and essential undertakings, such as water supplies, sanitary control and lighting absorb most of the receipts and little can be done in such matters as re-alignment of streets or adequate roadmaking, the latter involving very heavy expenditure in a country where natural conditions are so unfavourable. It is not, therefore, surprising that the larger municipalities should ever be confronted with the alternative of diminishing their activities in a manner unworthy of them, or of hanging on the verge of bankruptcy, saved therefrom only by occasional grants in aid from the Government.

During the year 1925, a determined effort was made in Baghdad to overcome irregularities in administration which could scarcely be explained by inefficiency alone. An important reform was the institution of a single Magistrate's Court attached permanently to the municipality. It is under the inspection of the Ministry of Justice and replaces the previous Municipal Court which had proved highly unsatisfactory.

Considerable progress, upon a minor scale, was made in town improvement. A large number of street surveys have been carried out and the way prepared for the widening and aligning of streets when demolition and rebuilding shall occur. New water mains were completed early in the year.



In Basra the work of metalling roads was carried on as far as funds permitted and something has been done towards the widening of streets. A new bridge has been constructed over the main creek. The Maude Memorial Hospital, which is one of the best in the country, and was built entirely from public subscriptions, continues to be the pride of the town.

Commercial stagnation and general scarcity have affected the position of the municipality of Mosul. Reductions in the Department of Public Works have left but one executive engineer for the whole of the former Mosul Wilayat, and this official has not time to give the municipality all the technical advice and assistance it needs. This is the more to be regretted as there is now no reason to believe that his advice would not be acted upon, since the Mutasarrif, a man of energy and ability, has taken the direction of the more important engineering enterprises out of the hands of the Municipal Council and made each the work of a separate council presided over by himself.

Of the smaller provincial towns, Kirkuk has a well-run municipality. Ice, soda and electric lighting are all municipal concerns and the annual income from municipal property has doubled since 1919. 'Amara has had a heavy capital expenditure on water supply services, but has been able to do without a Government loan.

Generally it may be said of towns of this calibre that their resources are adequate to maintain essential minimum services and to save small sums for permanent improvements. Even smaller municipalities are sometimes capable of undertaking works of public utility if they offer an immediate return to the ratepayers.

### 3. The 'Iraq Police.

The year 1925 witnessed continued progress in the efficiency of the Police force throughout the country, and, although certain Liwas show an increase in their crime returns—which may be attributed to abnormal conditions—public security has been well maintained. The Police have now got a good grip of the country and public confidence in the Force has increased. Gazetted 'Iraqi officers and Inspectors have gained in experience, the result being better investigation of crime and improved knowledge of police-work generally, while the men themselves have improved in discipline and morale as a result of the better police station accommodation which is now springing up all over the country. In fact it may be said that the increase of police prestige in many Liwas is in large measure due to this cause. Much, however, remains to be done in this direction and it is hoped during 1926 to establish several new police stations and posts.



Further progress has been made in handing over control to 'Iraqi Commandants. At the close of 1924, only one Liwa, namely Arbil, was without an 'Iraqi Commandant of Police and on the 2nd May, 1925, one was appointed to this Liwa, the British Commandant taking up the duties of Inspecting Officer. Only the 'Iraq Railway Police now remain under the executive control of a British officer.

The budget for 1925-26 (excluding Sulaimaniya) amounted to Rs. 71,95,180/- and included provision for 2,788 mounted and 3,149 foot police. As a result of the recommendations of the Finance Commission, the Frontier Force of 100 mounted police operating on the Mosul Liwa frontier was disbanded with effect from the 1st August, 1925.

The budget, however, included an increase on the previous year of 40 men for the Dulaim Camel Corps, 37 mounted police for Diwaniya Liwa, and 50 foot police for Chubaish (Nasiriya). In addition in October, sanction was accorded for the organization of a mobile force of 250 men and an extra 2 lakhs was allotted for this purpose.

A further increase of the number of mounted and foot police and also of the small Nasiriya Camel Corps, employed upon patrolling the vast Shamiya desert, is contemplated during 1926.

#### GAZETTED OFFICERS.

The number of British Gazetted officers remained the same as in 1924, namely 15. Of these, eight officers were during the year given 10-year contracts, four officers 5-year contracts, and 3-year contracts are being offered to the remaining three officers.

At the end of 1925, the strength of 'Iraqi officers was 15 Commandants of Police and 25 Assistant Commandants. The number will remain unchanged during 1926.

Haji Salim Beg held the office of Director-General of Police throughout the year.

#### BRITISH NON-GAZETTED PERSONNEL.

At the end of 1925, the strength of the non-gazetted personnel, including Railway Police, was fourteen, the same as in 1924, but during the year the 'Iraq Government decided to reduce the number by three and effect has been given to this decision.

The non-gazetted personnel have done excellent work during the year and no single case of misconduct has been reported. Their value has specially been demonstrated in the towns of Baghdad, Mosul and Basra, and in areas where there are large bodies of mounted police. Any further reduction during the next few years would probably be unwise. The 'Iraqi station



house officer has still a lot to learn and the presence of British non-gazetted personnel ensures the enforcement of discipline, effective patrolling and the satisfactory turn out of men and horses. Some of these officers will for a long time to come be necessary in the large towns of Baghdad, Mosul and Basra where the foreign community is considerable.

#### INSPECTORS.

The total number of Inspectors in the Force is 174; of these, seven are Indians. During the year three Indian Inspectors were repatriated and those that remain are either employed on the 'Iraq Railways or in the Finger Print Bureau of the Criminal Investigation Department.

Twenty-eight new Inspectors were appointed during the year, while it was found necessary to dispense with the services of six for inefficiency and breaches of discipline. Of the new Inspectors appointed fourteen were promoted from the rank of head constable. The promotion of head constables has proved a success. They are well grounded in police work and, moreover, their promotion provides the necessary incentive to good work to the rest of the force.

The Inspectors' training school functioned throughout the year and twenty-three Inspectors were trained and passed out. The 'Iraqi Inspectors of Police are shaping well and on the whole show considerable promise, while their discipline throughout the year has been most satisfactory.

#### DISCIPLINE, RECRUITING AND HEALTH.

The discipline of the whole force has been remarkably good. There have been very few complaints from the public in regard to ill-treatment or oppression. The majority of the cases have been minor offences against discipline and have been dealt with under the Police Proclamation. Very few cases were serious enough to be brought before the Courts, and in the Baghdad Liwa for instance there were only two such cases.

Reports from all Liwas indicate that the men have invariably behaved extremely well when in action against raiding parties and highway robbers, and in such actions one Inspector and twenty-four men lost their lives in the execution of their duty.

No difficulty has been experienced in obtaining suitable recruits and the service is popular.

Health has been good except in Sulaimaniya and the marshy districts of the Nasiriya Liwa, although malaria has been prevalent in most Liwas and has had to be combated by the liberal and compulsory issue of quinine.



## BUILDINGS.

Considerable progress was made during the year in regard to the provision of police barracks, blockhouses, stables, etc., in places where the existing accommodation was either inadequate or unsatisfactory and further progress is anticipated during 1926.

## ARMS LICENSING AND TRAFFIC.

No information was received during the year of any traffic in arms with Syria and no caravans carrying arms appear to have entered the country. The import by merchants of revolvers of all kinds is still prohibited and only existing stocks are allowed to be sold to approved persons. The Arms Regulations have been enforced in towns and as far as is possible in the tribal areas.

There have been a large number of prosecutions for illegal possession of arms chiefly in the Mosul and Kirkuk Liwas, where 570 rifles and revolvers were confiscated during the year, and over 300 persons prosecuted.

## THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DEPARTMENT.

*Special Branch.*

The Special Branch maintained its special function of keeping the Government informed of political movements and intrigues and the surveillance of political suspects.

The movements of foreigners—particularly Asiatic foreigners—were carefully followed and although it is probable that several foreign agents—particularly Turkish—escaped notice, many were prosecuted under the Passport and Residence Laws and expelled. Several cases of proved spies were dealt with by the Courts.

Information of a political and secret nature was regularly supplied to Liwa Police and a weekly Abstract of Intelligence published. The usual close liaison with the Intelligence Branch of Air Headquarters was maintained.

The number of history sheets and dossiers maintained rose from 1,468 to 1,768 during the year under review.

*Criminal Branch.*

The Criminal Branch formed during 1924 has now become firmly established, and 'Alwan Effendi, Commandant of Police, continued to be in charge. The Department undertook the investigation of many intricate and difficult cases both in Baghdad and Basra and in addition rendered assistance to Liwa Police where called upon to do so.

Criminal intelligence of all kinds was circulated by means of the Criminal Intelligence Gazette and a consolidated list of persons wanted by the Police was compiled, published, and circulated. History sheets for 300 notorious criminals were compiled.



The Baghdad Branch was busy for several months in investigating a series of extensive misappropriation cases involving over Rs. 60,000/- loss to the Baghdad Municipality. These investigations are now completed and are before the Courts. Several cases of espionage were also dealt with.

#### *Finger-Print Bureau.*

The number of slips on record increased from 21,808 at the end of 1924 to 29,156 at the end of 1925, 7,348 additional slips having been placed on record, an increase of 1,548 over the previous year.

A total of 11,393 Search Slips were received as against 7,900 in the previous year, while the number of persons traced with previous convictions was 1,609 against 1,051 in 1924, and 166 persons passing under false names, were detected as against 144 in the previous year.

In addition to the ordinary work of the Bureau, no less than 2,110 verifications of character of persons applying for service in 'Iraq and British Government service were made, among which 142 ex-convicts were detected and 32 were found to be passing under false names.

#### *Expert Opinion.*

Expert opinion in criminal and civil cases was asked for in 30 cases as against 21 in 1924. In addition, references were received from departments for expert opinion as to finger-prints on acquittance rolls, petitions, etc.

### PASSPORT, RESIDENCE AND NATURALIZATION DEPARTMENT.

#### *Administration and Organisation.*

During the year the Department was regularly constituted and organised as a branch of the Criminal Investigation Department and was placed in the charge of an 'Iraqi officer.

No change in procedure took place, as the system in vogue was found to work satisfactorily. It was found necessary to open Passport Checking Posts at Arbil and Ruwandiz, and it is probable that further posts will be opened in the near future, particularly on the Persian frontier of the 'Amara Liwa.

#### *Immigration.*

During the year, 1,299 persons were granted permission to enter 'Iraq.

#### *Residence.*

During the year, 653 applications for permission to reside in 'Iraq (including personnel demobilized from the British Forces) were dealt with.

111 cases of deportation of undesirable aliens were considered. Of this number, 97 were deported, 13 are awaiting release from jail, and one was refused.



*Passports.*

The number of passports and visas issued during the year at the various Bureaux and Posts is as under :—

<i>Place.</i>	<i>Passports.</i>	<i>Visas.</i>
Baghdad .. .. .	3,212	2,020
Basra .. .. .	2,938	6,186
Khanaqin .. .. .	1,392	3,225
Mosul .. .. .	1,602	1,459
Ramadi .. .. .	500	1,242
Total ..	9,644	14,132

*Naturalization.*

Large numbers of applications for naturalization from aliens resident in 'Iraq have been received, but cannot be disposed of pending the issue of Regulations under the Nationality Law, which are now under active consideration and will shortly be issued.

164 applications for 'Iraqian nationality from persons who may acquire it under the law were dealt with and a total of 105 Provisional Certificates of 'Iraqian nationality were issued.

*Pilgrim Traffic.*

The difficulty hitherto experienced with Indian pilgrims arriving on collective passes and subsequently breaking up was solved by the Indian authorities consenting to issue individual passes bearing, in the case of men, the photograph of the holder.

During the year there was little or no pilgrimage from 'Iraq to the Hejaz owing to conditions prevailing there.

The Persian Government removed the embargo on the pilgrimage to 'Iraq in September, 1925, with the result that the number of pilgrims who entered during the last quarter of the year totalled 16,772 as compared with 373 during the first quarter.

The total number of Moslem pilgrims who entered 'Iraq during the year was 22,771. They were of the following nationalities :—

	<i>Via Basra.</i>	<i>Via Khanagin.</i>
Arabs .. .. .	1,983	60
Persians .. .. .	406	16,366
Indians .. .. .	3,725	122
Caucasians .. .. .	—	51
Afghans .. .. .	—	47
Kashmiris .. .. .	—	2
Bukharans .. .. .	—	2
Kurumis .. .. .	—	7
Total ..	6,114	16,657



*Shatt-al-Arab Passport Control.*

A special arrangement has been introduced under which persons permanently resident within a specified area, comprising the 'Iraq and Persian banks of the Shatt-al-Arab, can obtain a single visa covering all journeys between 'Iraq and Persian territory for a period of one year. This arrangement has worked satisfactorily.

*Revenue.*

The total revenue estimated to have accrued to the Government through the Passport Department is Rs. 93,624, exclusive of the amounts collected and credited to 'Iraq Revenues by the British Consuls at Kermanshah, Bushire and Mohammerah.

*General.*

The total number of passports and visas issued shows a falling off of approximately 12 and 20 per cent. respectively. This is entirely due to there having been little or no pilgrimage to the Hejaz during the year, to the fact that the Turks practically closed the northern frontier and to the troubles in Syria, owing to which, traffic across the desert and via the Aleppo road was reduced considerably.

The passport-checking staff in Basra detected 357 cases of stowaways and 56 cases of fraudulent use of passports. This is a clear indication of the necessity for strict passport control there. Such cases practically never occur at the land frontier checking, which is probably due to the comparative ease with which the posts can be avoided. Nevertheless, many cases of evasion of the Passport and Residence Laws were detected, 45 persons being prosecuted (42 were sentenced to imprisonment and 3 to fine) in Baghdad; 13 persons (6 were sentenced to imprisonment and 7 to fine) in Mosul and 2 persons were sentenced to imprisonment in Khanaqin.

*CRIME.*

On the whole crime was well dealt with both in regard to prevention and detection. The total number of cases of all kinds reported to the police numbered 24,010. Of these 13,544 ended in conviction, while at the close of the year 1,708 remained under investigation. In the year 1924, the total number of cases numbered 18,201 with 10,680 convictions. This increase is to be attributed mainly to the failure of the harvest and, in general, to the unsatisfactory economic conditions prevailing during the year. It must, however, also be remembered that the increased public confidence in the police had led to better reporting of crime and consequently to the registration of more cases, while the police themselves prosecuted very many more



petty cases than in the preceding year. Moreover, unstable conditions on the northern frontier and in Sulaimaniya were undoubtedly responsible for much of the crime in the northern Liwas.

During the year, the adherents of Shaikh Mahmud made many raids into the Kirkuk Liwa—on one occasion even penetrating the Diyala Liwa—and excellent work was done by the police in combating these rebel incursions. Large bodies of raiders were often engaged by the police and it is satisfactory to note that at the conclusion of the year there was a marked improvement in the general situation.

The decision of the League of Nations in regard to the northern frontier and the gradual re-establishment of Government control in Sulaimaniya will also undoubtedly have a stabilising effect on these frontier Liwas and it is confidently expected that during 1926 there will be a large decrease of crime.

The police on several occasions successfully co-operated with aircraft and ground troops. In the Kirkuk Liwa several combined operations were undertaken, while in the Nasiriya Liwa the recalcitrant and powerful Shaikh Salim al Khaiyun who had flouted Government authority was brought to heel by aircraft, supported by police and Iraq Army troops, and Government control is now firmly established.

In the Diwaniya Liwa the situation has been one of continued improvement and a year of record revenue has resulted.

The influx of tribesmen from Persian territory, in consequence of the conflict between the Persian Government and the Shaikh of Mohammerah, caused the Basra Liwa authorities some anxiety and was responsible for an increase of crime, but preventive measures were adopted, and, with the advent of the date packing season, employment was found for these people and they later recrossed the border.

#### DULAIM DESERT FORCE.

The Desert Force has done excellent work during the year. At the beginning of the year the strength was 69 horsemen and 50 camelmén, but the latter were increased to 90 during the year. The force was responsible for tracing and arresting the two men who held up the Eastern Transport convoy and murdered Mme. Maillard, the wife of the French Vice-Consul at Baghdad.

The work of the force has chiefly been the protection of the desert and Aleppo routes to Syria. This duty has been carried out very satisfactorily. The force has also had a very strenuous time in the forward area preventing inter-tribal raiding, and has only recently been able to return to its former duties of



road protection. Posts were established at Rutba and Muhaiwar in May and October respectively, since when they have been of great service to the desert convoys.

The above-mentioned case of brigandage was the only one occurring on the desert routes to Syria. This is remarkable considering the growth of traffic. Exclusive of cars of the Nairn Transport Company, 6,539 cars carrying 9,810 passengers have traversed these routes.

#### CONCLUSION.

Good progress has been made in all branches of police administration. The majority of Iraqi officers and Inspectors are shaping well, but naturally still require experience. The British and Indian element has been further decreased and Iraqi control extended.

The Director-General of Police, Haji Salim Beg, can look back with satisfaction upon another year of his administration. He and his Commandants have maintained most cordial relations with the Inspectorate staff which is a happy augury for the future and ensures the continued progress of the force.

#### 4. The Jails Department.

For administrative purposes the jails are grouped into three divisions: (1) Baghdad Division, consisting of the Central Jail, Baghdad, the District Jails of Ba'quba, Hilla and Kut, the Remand Lock-up, Baghdad, and the Reformatory School; (2) Basra Division, comprising the Central Jail, Basra, with Amara and Nasiriya District Jails; and (3) Mosul Division, consisting of the Central Jail, Mosul, and District Jails at Arbil and Kirkuk.

#### POPULATION.

A most noticeable feature of the statistics for the year is the greatly increased number dealt with in the jails throughout the country—11,489 as compared to 8,199 in 1924. This increase has resulted in a much larger number being detained in the jails at the end of the year, viz. 2,694—an increase of 741 since the beginning of the year—and being unexpected has caused some financial and administrative inconvenience. A large proportion of the persons admitted were farmers, so possibly the hard winter of 1924-25, with the resultant failure of crops, may be responsible in some measure for the influx. The fact that for the first few months the figures were practically normal, rising suddenly about May and continuing at a high level for the remainder of the year, gives support to this view.



A very perceptible increase in the number of civil debtors occurred during the year. This may be due to trade and agricultural depression, but it is also possible that the easy conditions under which a debtor serves his sentence influences the numbers of this class. In the Mosul Division the average number of this class of prisoner has practically doubled since 1924.

#### HEALTH.

The health of the prisoners in the jails throughout the country has been uniformly good. During the year 734 cases were admitted to hospitals, and a daily average of 50 reported sick from the various jails. These figures include those treated in the jail hospitals at the Central Jails. In view of the numbers dealt with during the year, these figures are very small, considering also that a number of these cases were sick on admission to jail and were sent straight to hospital.

At Baghdad, a few cases of plague were suspected towards the end of May. All prisoners were inoculated immediately, the whole jail was thoroughly disinfected and every possible precaution was taken to prevent an epidemic. Fortunately these measures were effective and no further cases occurred.

No complaints were received from the prisoners with regard to their food, which is subjected to frequent medical inspections, and visitors to the jails invariably expressed their approval both of the food and the culinary arrangements.

The weighing of all convicted prisoners, which is carried out regularly, very rarely shows loss of weight, and in many cases there is a distinct gain. All cases of serious loss are reported to the medical officer who visits the jail daily.

#### DEATHS.

The total number of prisoners who died whilst in the charge of the jails was 26. With the exception of a prisoner at Baghdad who was shot while attempting to escape, and an old man who died in the night of senile debility at Kut, all deaths took place in hospital.

#### EXECUTIONS AND DEATH SENTENCES.

During the year ten executions were carried out. One of these, at the express orders of the Government, was carried out publicly at Ramadi. In all the ten cases the execution was successful and death instantaneous. At the end of the year 18 prisoners under sentence of death and awaiting confirmation of their sentences were in jail in various parts of the country.



### LABOUR AND INDUSTRIES.

Efforts were made to secure employment for all convicted prisoners during the year, instructions being issued that, if it was not possible to obtain payment for labour, Government Departments were to be supplied with such labour as they required free of charge. Under this arrangement, prisoners have been extensively employed during the year upon irrigation works, road making and repairs, and railway construction. They have also been employed upon the erection, repair, and alteration of jail buildings. In the Districts, however, it was often impossible to obtain employment for more than a fraction of the prisoners, owing to the general prejudice against the employment of prison labour.

Indoor industries were also inaugurated and encouraged as much as possible, in order to provide employment for long-sentence prisoners, whom it was not safe to employ outside the jail, and who would otherwise have remained idle. Apart from the immediate benefit to the prisoners of having employment, it is hoped that the fact of having a trade in their hands will be of assistance to them on their release. Financial stringency has prevented the extension of indoor industries to the District Jails, and has hampered the enlargement of factories in the Central Jails. At Baghdad, Basra and Mosul, it was possible to find employment for practically every prisoner.

The Jail Factory, Baghdad, was fully employed throughout the year. In addition to supplying clothing and blankets for all the jails of Iraq, the factory was able to undertake several large contracts for the supply of cloth and blankets to other Departments. During the year coir matting and carpet-making sections were added to the factory, and both have proved a success, the coir matting section having to be enlarged to cope with the orders received. Carpenter's, blacksmith's, tailor's and barber's shops are entirely run by prison labour, and at the end of the year the dyeing of wool and fabrics was initiated.

At Basra and Mosul, weaving factories have also been opened on a smaller scale. During 1926 it is hoped to enlarge them and so provide employment for more prisoners.

### DISCIPLINE AND PUNISHMENTS.

The conduct and discipline of the prisoners has, in general, been satisfactory.

In August a movement was in progress in the Baghdad Jail with the object of bringing about a general rising against the jail authorities. Three of the ring-leaders were transferred to other jails, and the trouble fizzled out.



In September in the same jail, a prisoner, actuated by personal ill-feeling, attacked another convict in the early hours of the morning. Other prisoners joined in the mêlée and three prisoners were seriously and two slightly wounded. Fortunately no fatalities occurred.

In June twelve prisoners at Mosul organised an attempted escape, but knowledge of it came to the authorities in time for them to nip the plot before it developed. Later in the same jail several convicts attempted to raise strife between the Arab and Kurdish prisoners, but action was taken and the trouble did not mature.

The total number of punishments inflicted for infringements of jail rules was 830, the great majority of which were for minor offences and were of a moderate nature.

#### ESCAPES AND RECAPTURES.

Twenty-four escapes took place during the year, but in only four cases was it found that the jail staff was at fault. Fifteen of the fugitives were recaptured and dealt with by the Courts. At Baghdad Jail one prisoner was shot dead and another wounded whilst attempting to escape in company with four others. The four who succeeded in getting away were recaptured later. Seven escaped prisoners are still at large.

#### BUILDINGS.

The total capacity of the jails in 'Iraq, including the extensions added during the year, is at present 2,400, and further extensions are urgently required.

Much was done in the year under report to relieve the congestion and to improve jail accommodation and prison amenities generally by the construction of additional blocks, cook-houses, bathrooms, etc. In every case these works were carried out by prison labour. It is hoped that it will be possible to continue the programme of new construction, extension and repairs in 1926.

#### REFORMATORY SCHOOL, BAGHDAD.

The institution opened with a population of 44 and the year ended with the same number. 272 boys were admitted and 272 released during the year. The maximum and minimum population on any one day was 64 and 29 respectively, and the daily average population was 45.7.

Boys in the institution are taught to read and write Arabic, and preliminary lessons in other usual subjects are also given. Most of the boys are absolutely illiterate on admission, but the majority of them can at least read and write when they are released.



At the latter end of the year, book-binding and shoe-making were introduced as handicrafts, and it is hoped that the boys will profit by them. The institution possesses a band of nineteen instruments and many of the boys have become proficient performers.

The institution fulfils its purpose at present, but it would be much more useful were the boys to be confined in every case for not less than two years, which would afford them time to benefit fully by the lessons and discipline in the school. At present most of them are released just when the effects of regulation are becoming apparent.

#### GENERAL.

Despite the greatly increased numbers dealt with, the Department has functioned smoothly and efficiently; there has been no trouble of a serious nature and no serious sickness has occurred in any of the jails. In spite of the larger numbers, work has been found for the greater part of the prisoners. Many extensions and improvements to jail premises have been economically carried out. Industries have been introduced into the chief jails and their range has been widened as far as possible.

The efficiency of the staff has improved, and as a system of periodical examination has been introduced, it is hoped that the improvement will continue.

### 5. Health Services.

#### GENERAL.

During the year under report the Health Service has continued its steady progress and development, free for the first time in its history from the fear of experimental budget reductions and happy in the thought that its organization and scope of work appeared to be at last on an accepted basis. This feeling of stability is largely due to the visit of the Financial Mission to Iraq, early in 1925. The Mission in its report appreciated the work of the Health Service, justified its scope, approved the economy of its administration, and recommended no reduction in its cost, except such relief to Government as might be possible by devoting part of the revenues of the Department of 'Auqaf to health measures.

The Health Service during the year has fortunately been free from anxieties in the shape of severe epidemics or other abnormal outbreaks of disease amongst the population.

#### INSTITUTIONS.

During 1925 the Health Service maintained 18 hospitals and 53 dispensaries in the different Liwas of Iraq. The total number of beds in all the hospitals in the country is 1,170.



Hospital facilities in the various Liwas of the country are adequate with the exception of Baghdad and Dulaim. As regards Baghdad, no increase of beds has been provided, and indeed cannot be provided, until the portion of the Royal Hospital which is at present occupied as a military hospital is released. The construction of a hospital at Ramadi in the Dulaim Liwa is in hand, building operations have not yet been begun, but orders for materials have been placed locally and it appears probable that the hospital will be completed by the autumn of 1926.

Good progress is being made with the provision of dispensary facilities throughout the country. Fifty-three dispensaries are now maintained, as compared with 43 last year, and a further increase is contemplated in 1926. New dispensaries were established in 1925 at:—

Abul-Khasib  
'Ashar  
Fao  
'Ali-Gharbi  
Shahraban  
Samawa  
Shifathah  
'Ain Sifni  
Falluja  
Halabja

The following is the distribution of dispensaries throughout the Liwas of 'Iraq:—

<i>Liwa</i>	<i>Number of dispensaries</i>
Baghdad	9
Basra	7
Mosul	7
'Amara	3
Arbil	3
Diwaniya	4
Diyala	4
Dulaim	3
Hilla	3
Karbala	4
Kirkuk	2
Kurdistan	2
Kut	1
Muntafiq	1

In addition there are fourteen dispensaries maintained by municipalities.



The Maude Memorial Hospital at Basra has been completed this year and awaits official inauguration early in 1926. All departments of the new hospital are now functioning, with the exception of a ward for women which it is hoped to furnish and staff in the new financial year.

#### PERSONNEL.

During the year under report the issue of long-term contracts to British officers of the Health Service was approved by the Council of State for the following posts:—

- Grade II. Inspector-General.
- " III. Epidemiologist.
- " III. Health Officer, Basra Liwa.
- " III. Director of Hospitals, Baghdad Liwa.
- " III. Director of Hospitals, Basra Liwa.
- " III. Chief Surgical Specialist.
- " III. Chief Pathologist and Director of Anti-Rabic, and Vaccine Lymph Institute.
- " III. Director of X-Ray Institute.
- " III. Chief Ophthalmic Specialist and Physician.
- " III. Chemical Examiner
- " III. Civil Surgeon, Mosul.
- " III. Civil Surgeon, Kurdistan.
- " III. King's Physician.
- " IVA. Assistant Chief Pathologist.

Four British doctors are still without contracts. Sanction was granted by the Council of State to recruit two additional British doctors in England, but suitable candidates had not been obtained for these posts by the end of the year.

#### LOCAL OFFICIALS.

The Director of Public Health, Dr. Hanna Khaiyat, is making very satisfactory progress with his policy of engaging Arab doctors whenever possible to fill the Health Service posts.

Hitherto the policy has been to fill all possible posts with 'Iraqi doctors, but a wider policy is now followed, since every 'Iraqi doctor in the country has either a post in the Health Service or has had the offer of a post commensurate with his abilities.

Thirty-three local doctors are now employed in the Health Service. Of this number twenty-one are 'Iraqis.

#### VITAL STATISTICS AND EPIDEMIC DISEASE.

Hitherto difficulties have been experienced in obtaining satisfactory birth and death statistics for the country as a whole. No improvement has yet been effected in this respect.



The following tables show the deaths registered in Baghdad, Basra and Mosul during the years 1923, 1924, and 1925.

*Deaths Registered in the Three Larger Towns.*

Year ..	Baghdad Population 250,000			Basra Population 50,000			Mosul Population 80,000		
	1923	1924	1925	1923	1924	1925	1923	1924	1925
	5,804	5,903	5,647	2,507	1,474	1,486	1,236	2,038	1,278
Death- rate ..	23.2	23.6	22.5	50.1	29.5	29.7	15.5	25.5	16.0

The death rates per thousand given for Baghdad are the most dependable, as the official census figures for Basra and Mosul are of doubtful value, the estimate for Basra being certainly below the actual figure.

#### INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The accompanying table shows the incidence of notified cases of infectious disease in 'Iraq during 1925 and the comparison of total notifications of these diseases since 1921.

It will be seen from this table that there has been nothing abnormal in the numbers of cases reported of the various infectious diseases with the exception of plague, of which disease only twenty cases were reported for the whole country. This is by far the lowest figure since the British occupation of the country. The reason for this very low incidence of plague was undoubtedly the abnormally cold weather of the winter of 1924-25 which killed off a large proportion of the animal population of the country and amongst which the rat population suffered very severely. An additional favourable factor was the effect of the cold weather on the fleas, conditions being very unfavourable for their breeding in the early spring, the season when they are usually most prevalent. It would be very unwise to deduce that this very low incidence of plague will tend to continue, and as a matter of fact, at the moment of writing this report, conditions for the propagation of plague are so favourable that it appears probable that the year 1926 will be a bad plague year.

An increase of smallpox is accounted for by epidemics amongst tribes in the 'Amara, Kirkuk and Muntafiq liwas.

Enteric group diseases appear to be definitely on the increase during the last five years. A part of this increase may be due to better notification, but it is significant that reported cases are diminishing in Basra, while they are increasing in other areas, and it must be accepted that the enteric group is definitely increasing, though its prevalence in 'Iraq still compares favourably with its prevalence in adjoining countries.



*Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 'Iraq during the calendar year 1925.*

Liwas.				Cerebro-spinal Meningitis.	Chicken-pox.	Cholera.	Diphtheria.	Influenza.	Measles.	Plague.	Whooping Cough.	Relapsing Fever.	Scarlet Fever.	Smallpox.	Typhus.	Anthrax.	Enteric Group.	Leprosy.	Mumps.	Puerperal Fever.	Tetanus.	Tuberculosis.
Baghdad	..	..	..	10	2	—	28	—	247	18	—	—	—	96	1	3	156	24	26	6	12	289
Basra	..	..	..	1	3	—	4	—	28	1	44	—	—	92	—	—	5	16	4	—	4	95
Mosul	..	..	..	1	3	—	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	1	3	63	—	28	1	—	107
'Amara	..	..	..	1	6	—	1	—	90	—	26	—	—	109	—	—	5	13	30	—	1	35
Arbil	..	..	..	1	3	—	—	—	239	—	19	—	—	1	—	—	11	1	15	1	—	12
Diwaniya	..	..	..	—	2	—	1	—	103	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	6	4	3	—	4	56
Diyala	..	..	..	1	2	—	—	37	37	—	1	—	18	63	—	3	2	4	10	—	—	52
Dulaim	..	..	..	—	12	—	—	—	72	—	—	—	5	27	—	—	12	2	51	—	—	20
Hilla	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	2	17	2	—	76
Karbala	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	4	172	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	29	4	25	—	1	149
Kirkuk	..	..	..	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	15	—	77	—	1	13
Kurdistan	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kut	..	..	..	—	—	—	—	—	30	—	2	—	—	9	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Muntafiq	..	..	..	—	1	—	2	—	56	1	—	—	—	162	—	1	5	8	37	—	2	26
Total 1925	..	..	..	15	34	—	40	41	1,076	20	95	—	25	832	2	10	313	79	339	10	28	1,013
Total 1924	..	..	..	14	41	—	30	8	1,374	523	*	—	12	459	9	4	134	22	145	19	7	819
Total 1923	..	..	..	13	26	1,640	27	13	487	787	*	1	2	1,692	27	11	158	25	58	9	9	503
Total 1922	..	..	..	12	56	—	43	10	87	685	*	—	7	1,862	48	6	104	42	229	39	14	398
Total 1921	..	..	..	26	90	—	20	10	605	137	*	3	2	475	61	*	87	25	92	*	*	178

\* Not specified.



The increased incidence of measles and mumps within the last five years is of no particular importance; notification is better amongst the tribes.

The increase of tuberculosis is apparent only; for example, 147 cases are reported this year from Karbala, compared with 95 in 1924, and 8 only in 1923. Re-reporting of old cases and the personal factor of the reporting medical officer, or general practitioner, are the most probable cause of the increase.

#### WORK OF HEALTH SERVICE INSTITUTIONS.

The following table shows the patients treated during 1923, 1924, and 1925 in Health Service Institutions in the various liwas of 'Iraq :—

STATEMENT SHOWING PATIENTS TREATED IN HEALTH SERVICE INSTITUTIONS IN THE VARIOUS LIWAS OF 'IRAQ DURING 1923, 1924 AND 1925.

Liwas.	1923.		1924.		1925.	
	Total In-Patients.	Total Out-Patients.	Total In-Patients.	Total Out-Patients.	Total In-Patients.	Total Out-Patients.
Baghdad ..	4,805	413,887	5,925	469,106	5,432	534,754
Basra ..	3,205	94,857	2,914	109,423	3,328	141,166
Mosul ..	2,267	77,087	2,553	74,006	2,660	96,751
'Amara ..	190	22,589	244	31,873	256	46,832
Arbil ..	355	28,371	279	27,758	538	49,534
Diwaniya ..	204	40,616	448	61,205	382	68,523
Diyala ..	365	26,583	379	27,751	304	41,712
Dulaim ..	—	8,768	—	22,793	24	36,545
Hilla ..	390	34,630	397	45,320	462	49,592
Karbala ..	202	25,119	258	60,262	548	62,258
Kirkuk ..	527	60,058	458	77,301	575	78,459
Kurdistan ..	—	—	130	9,643	582	29,626
Kut ..	443	28,889	156	15,314	86	21,682
Muntafiq ..	679	24,840	1,261	40,130	1,355	41,170
TOTALS ..	13,632	886,904	15,502	1,070,886	16,532	1,298,604

These institutions are doing very good work and the steady increase of work as illustrated in the following table is a proof of the steadily growing appreciation of the public in the facilities provided.

The work of specialists in special institutions was dealt with in the report for 1923-24. It is steadily growing in proportion with the general increase of work of the service.

The work of the Civil Nursing Homes in Basra and Baghdad requires special mention. When these institutions were first established they were intended to provide facilities for the treatment of British officials to whom the Government was under contractual obligation and to provide hospital facilities for the better class local private patient in 'Iraq which did not otherwise exist in the country. Their advantages were at first enjoyed almost entirely by the British officials and British residents,



the institutions being regarded with slight suspicion by local patients. As the standard of medical treatment has risen in the country, the appreciation of its value has also risen amongst the people, and these institutions are now so popular with the local inhabitants that their accommodation has latterly been severely tested and on occasion recently patients have had to be refused admittance for lack of beds. The nursing at the Basra Nursing Home is by British nurses, in the Baghdad Nursing Home it is by French nuns. The French nuns are not sufficiently skilled to provide the first class nursing that is occasionally necessary in special cases, though generally they are quite good. To meet this difficulty it has been the practice to transfer British nurses for special duty, when necessity arises, and the question of obtaining extra British nurses to take over entire charge of this nursing home, which requires extension, having become too small for existing needs, is now under consideration.

The 'Iraq Government is able to provide adequate hospital and dispensary facilities for its population from its own resources but would certainly welcome assistance in this burden. Assistance in the nature of provision of buildings and equipment for a medical school would be particularly welcome. The maintenance of institutions for the infirm, for lepers and for lunatics would also appear to be charitable objects on which the Ministry of 'Auqaf might well spend a portion of its revenues, to the relief of the Government.

#### PRACTICE OF PROSTITUTION.

A form of control exists in all towns where recognized prostitutes practise and there is no doubt that, where the powers of control are honestly enforced, a benefit to the public results, though the actual benefit is impossible to estimate by any statistics that can be obtained as to the incidence of venereal disease amongst the general public. Under present conditions, the problem of prostitution is impossible of solution in 'Iraq, the chief obstacle in dealing with the problem being that in 'Iraq, as in the majority of eastern countries, once a woman has taken up, or been forced into, the profession of prostitution, she has no means of escape from it, since there are practically no occupations in which an independent woman can earn an honest living. Compulsory prohibition of prostitution, or enforced cessation from practice of infected prostitutes, if efficiently enforced would be a sentence of death to thousands of these women, unless the Government could provide institutions for their maintenance for the rest of their lives.

The only honest calling which has ever been open to a prostitute in 'Iraq, Turkey or Persia, is that of a midwife, or a female nurse. This throws a sad illumination on the status of women in the past in these countries and on the past standard of medical treatment. It explains also some of the difficulties which must



be dealt with in educating the public mind in medical matters in 'Iraq and in persuading respectable women to take up the professions of nursing and midwifery.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH.

The whole of the institutions of the Health Service play their part in the combat of epidemic and endemic disease. With the exception of the Liwas of Basra and Baghdad, the health authority of each liwa is the Civil Surgeon, who has charge of all institutions, is also responsible for all sanitary measures for the combat of infectious disease and is the adviser on sanitary matters to all municipalities in his area. The Port and Liwa of Basra are under the sanitary control of a specialist health officer and the epidemiologist attached to the headquarters of the Health Directorate has special sanitary control over the Baghdad Liwa, in addition to his general duties which also include control of the pilgrim traffic. These arrangements work well in practice and 'Iraq may be considered as possessing an efficient sanitary organization for the combat of infectious diseases. The only assistance that the country requires from outside sources in this connexion is the establishment of research laboratories for the study of malaria, bilharzia and other endemic diseases of the country, such as have been provided by the Rockefeller foundation in other parts of the world. Palestine and Syria are more fortunate in this respect than 'Iraq and in addition have benefited by the visits of commissions of the League of Nations charged with the study of their malaria problems.

#### PILGRIM AND CORPSE TRAFFIC.

The control of pilgrims and of the transit of corpses for burial in the holy cities of 'Iraq has been greatly strengthened this year. The Corpse Traffic Law was passed at the end of 1924 and came into full operation in March 1925. This law provides for examination of corpses at the frontier of 'Iraq by quarantine officials, the issue of transit passes and the checking of these passes by quarantine officials at the place of burial. Prior to the operation of this law a large amount of corpse smuggling was taking place, the corpses once within the country passing as local corpses and being free from transit fees, or other interference. The new system, by which special transit passes for local corpses are also required, renders it impossible for corpses to be buried at the holy cities without production of a pass or payment of transit dues. A large amount of smuggling is still taking place, but this now only results in a loss of revenue, without loss of sanitary control, since all corpses in transit are now inspected, whether of foreign or local origin. The numbers of foreign and local corpses for which transit permits were issued since April, 1925, were 4,124 and 12,178 respectively.

The issue of passes for pilgrims has also been taken over this year by the Health Service at the Quarantine Station of Khanaqin. The following numbers of pilgrims were examined and given passes at this station :—



Quarantine Station, Khanaqin

PILGRIMS RETURN FOR NINE MONTHS ENDING DECEMBER, 1925.

Month	Total pilgrims passed			Free			On payment		
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total
April ..	223	82	305	36	2	38	187	80	267
May ..	218	88	306	80	19	99	138	69	207
June ..	437	176	613	92	23	115	345	153	498
July ..	409	158	567	83	28	111	326	130	456
August ..	1,053	214	1,267	161	34	195	892	180	1,072
September ..	1,520	432	1,952	344	70	414	1,176	362	1,538
October ..	4,351	261	4,612	651	64	715	3,700	197	3,897
November ..	5,263	466	5,729	632	70	702	4,631	396	5,027
December ..	1,874	974	2,848	453	218	671	1,421	756	2,177
Total ..	15,348	2,851	18,199	2,532	528	3,060	12,816	2,323	15,139



It will be observed from these figures that the pilgrim traffic is resuming its normal figures. This is due to more stable conditions in Persia.

Owing to troubles in the Hejaz and in Syria, no pilgrimage to Mecca took place from 'Iraq, either by the sea or overland routes.

#### INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS.

The British Government, has adhered on behalf of 'Iraq to the following International conventions on matters affecting questions of health :—

The Hague Opium Convention, 1912.

The Dangerous Drugs Convention, 1925.

On all matters concerning public health, the 'Iraq Government co-operates wholeheartedly with the League of Nations, by enforcing, by all means within its power, the provisions of the conventions to which the mandatory has adhered on its behalf.

The International Sanitary Convention, 1912, is followed in all its details. The Opium and Dangerous Drugs Conventions present difficulties in application, but every effort is being made to enforce, not only the letter, but the spirit of these conventions. The necessary laws and regulations for control of dangerous drugs exist and are applied efficiently, but the problem of smuggling has yet to be dealt with. Exports of dangerous drugs from Great Britain are never made without the provision of an import certificate from the Director of Public Health, but the difficulty of control is increased by the fact that these certificates are rarely demanded for imports of dangerous drugs from other European countries.

#### MEDICAL EDUCATION.

The Government maintains a School of Pharmacy and provides facilities for the training of midwives, nurses, dressers and vaccinators. It is a matter for regret, however, that its finances have not as yet allowed it to institute a school of medicine for the training of doctors. Skilled personnel exist in the Health Service who could undertake all necessary professional duties, specialist institutions exist which could be used for educational purposes and the cases treated at the Royal Hospital in Baghdad afford magnificent facilities for the instruction of medical students. The sole obstacle to the establishment of a school is the question of a suitable building for its accommodation, which must be in a site immediately adjacent to, if not in the grounds of, the Royal Hospital.

### 6. Department of Agriculture.

#### SEASON.

The extraordinarily cold weather of the autumn of 1924 continued into the year 1925. The months of January and February were marked by long and continuous frosts, and never since records were taken in this country (a period of 37



years) has such long and intensive cold weather been experienced. The lack of autumn rains followed by this intensely cold weather resulted in a complete failure of the desert vegetation. Lack of grazing and exposure to weather caused very heavy mortality amongst all live-stock. It was estimated that the losses in sheep amounted to as much as 40 per cent. in northern Iraq.

This extremely hard winter was followed by a mild summer, remarkable chiefly for the marked deficiency of water in all three rivers. This water-shortage is to be attributed largely to the rigours of the winter. Snow on the hills, which form the catchment areas of the rivers, was probably less than normal, and was largely diminished by direct evaporation under the dry cold conditions prevailing. Further, it was maintained at constantly low temperatures, and this considerably diminished the normal amount of percolation into the soil, with the result that the springs which provide the summer water were short of water, and in many cases dried up completely. As a result of low levels in all rivers summer irrigation became difficult. The canals taking off from the Euphrates above the Hindiya Barrage were for the most part satisfactorily maintained, but the canals from the Diyala river were extraordinarily low throughout the year. The result was that summer crops suffered largely from lack of water, and, in particular, large areas of rice failed completely.

The first general autumn rains fell from 21st to 25th October, but this early promise was followed by a further period of dry weather and no more rains of agricultural value fell before the end of the year. The total rain-fall for the calendar year amounted only to 4.30 in. as against an average of 6.86 in. for the past 38 years. (Figures taken at Baghdad.) The cold winter and dry conditions prevailing resulted, however, in a marked absence of insect and fungoid pests during the year under report.

	Rainfall.		Maximum Temp.		Minimum Temp.		Humidity.	
	1925.	Average 1887-1924.	1925.	Average 1888-1924.	1925.	Average 1888-1924.	1925.	Average 1889-1924.
	in.	in.					%	%
January ..	.19	1.18	52.2	59.1	28.6	39.1	85	79
February ..	1.52	1.10	61.4	62.6	31.7	42.8	79	74
March ..	.37	1.23	80.3	72.8	51.6	49.6	72	69
April ..	.62	.84	83.9	83.3	54.4	58.3	54	59
May ..	.01	.25	98.3	94.1	65.8	68.2	32	49
June ..	Nil.	Nil.	102.8	104.3	72.3	76.1	30	36
July ..	Nil.	Nil.	109.4	109.5	75.2	79.9	26	36
August ..	Nil.	.02	112.4	109.6	74.9	79.1	24	39
September ..	.03	.01	105.5	103.4	68.8	72.6	28	41
October ..	.86	.08	88.3	92.4	61.3	63.2	56	50
November ..	.44	.86	74.8	75.3	48.1	50.9	80	65
December ..	.27	1.29	69.0	62.5	44.3	42.4	80	80



## COTTON.

The season's crop for 1924 reached a total of over 2,400 bales, but early in the 1925 season it became evident that progress would not be maintained. Cotton prices had continued to decline during the winter, and the rate of exchange was such as to indicate low rupee prices. Cultivators had lost a large percentage of their plough cattle during the hard winter, and the living ones were weak and emaciated from the same cause. Further, the comparative failure of the winter cereal crop led cultivators to think rather of expanding the areas of food-crops, and cotton was largely replaced by such crops as maize, millet and dukn. The result was that seed issues fell from 305,585 lb. in 1924 to 177,934 in 1925. The season was, however, good and where crops had a sufficiency of water the results were satisfactory and higher yields per acre than usual were obtained. A feature of this year's cotton crop, as opposed to the crops of previous years, is the great proportion which has been grown on comparatively big estates. Up to the present cotton has been largely grown in an experimental manner by a large number of growers, but during the past season a number of concerns took up the work in a most serious manner; whereas, on the other hand, a number of growers, who had never been seriously interested in the crop, gave it up.

The average yield per acre obtained on the Governmental Experimental Farm was 1,392 lb. per acre and on the Royal Estate 847 lb. Average yields varying from 847 lb. to 286 lb. per acre were obtained on the four largest private estates upon which cotton cultivation has been seriously undertaken.

Although the total deliveries to the ginnery amounted to only 3,382,630 lb., as compared with 3,574,556 in 1924, the future prospects are not so bad as one might believe, and it is confidently expected that the 1926 season will show an increased crop.

The British Cotton Growing Association have done all in their power to tide over the depression. They opened buying in August, at a price of Rs. 500 per ton, a price certainly not justified by the ruling price of raw cotton. They have continued to pay high prices during the season, in spite of the fall in cotton prices. Further, they reduced their ginning and baling charges to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  anna per lb. of cotton lint for cotton not sold to them but handed to them for ginning only. When it is considered that the type of cotton grown is the American upland type, and gins at only 25 per cent., it is obvious that the price is remarkably low. They have further reduced the price of selected seed for next season sowings to Rs. 70 per ton.

*Cotton (Experimental).*

The decline in price of American cotton led the Department to consider once more the desirability of introducing Egyptian



types. "Ashmouni," the cotton which was the most promising of Egyptian types previously tried, was therefore re-introduced and studied. This cotton cannot, however, stand up to the climatic conditions prevailing in this country in July and August. Up to July, it was by far more promising than the Webber types, which have so far been issued, but during July and August, it fell away sadly and shed both flowers and balls freely. In September it again recovered, but too late to overtake the Webber types which had stood the hot weather much better. These latter types are therefore superior even in a mild summer such as was experienced in 1925, and they are being retained for the present.

The irrigation test was largely modified in accordance with the results of previous experience. It was surmised from the 1924 experiments that the critical periods were the periods of flower formation (usually June to mid July for the first flush, and mid August to mid September for the second flush), and not, as had previously been believed, the hot dry months of July and August. The 1925 irrigation experiment confirmed this surmise, as did also the bulk crop to which the results of the test were applied. The results need further confirmation, however, and the experiment will be further modified in the 1926 season.

The varietal test again showed the superiority of the Webber selections over other varieties tried, but some of the strains produced by the cotton breeder approach these types very nearly in yield and quality and give much higher ginning percentages. When sufficient quantities of these seeds are available, these will be introduced to the test. The low ginning percentage of the Webber types is undoubtedly their greatest fault, and needs to be fully investigated. A manurial test has been laid down of early thinning to one or two plants per hill. Selection and breeding work were continued throughout the year.

#### CEREALS.

The harvest of the 1924-25 crop may be regarded as a complete failure. As forecasted in the report for last year, the security of grain has adversely affected the areas sown, and low autumn rainfall has further aggravated the position. The beginning of 1925 was marked by extremely cold climatic conditions and the spring floods were less than normal. All grain crops were unduly backward in the early spring, and were hastened quickly to maturity when the weather became warmer.

As is usually the case when the harvest is late, the crops of northern 'Iraq suffered heavily from locusts and from the *Sunn* pest (*Eurygaster integriceps*). The result was that only pump irrigated lands in middle and southern 'Iraq, together



with lands irrigated from the canals taking off from the Euphrates Barrage had anything like a normal crop. Soon after harvest it became obvious that the position in the north was very serious and wheat and barley rose to phenomenal prices. The average prices throughout the country were high through the whole year, but the position in the north is always more difficult, owing to the cost of transport. Northern cultivators are doubly hit, since, when they have wheat to sell, they receive the price less transport, but when they are compelled to buy, they have to pay the price plus freightage.

In Baghdad, prices of wheat and barley varied from Rs. 400 to Rs. 170 per ton for wheat, and Rs. 170 to Rs. 100 for barley, as compared with Rs. 230-Rs. 100 (wheat) and Rs. 100-Rs. 50 (barley) for 1924. Under these conditions exports fell to practically nil, though a certain amount of new season's produce was bought by merchants in the south immediately after harvest and before the situation had been fully appreciated.

It is estimated that the 1925 harvest was at least 30 per cent. below what may be considered normal and probably not equal to one half the harvest for 1922. Further, the quality of the grain was bad. Merchants have long been complaining of the increasing admixture of wild oats in 'Iraqi samples of both wheat and barley. Though during the past season practically no cereals were exported and therefore little has been heard on this subject, it is nevertheless a fact that even greater proportions than usual were present in most of the samples examined. These wild oats have so far been confined to certain regions, but the scarcity of grain in the north has led to importations of seed from areas where the weed exists, and there is reason to fear that this admixed seed will result in still further increases of this pernicious weed. The only remedy is improved seed, and improved methods of cultivation. Prospects for next year, though more promising, are not good. High prices and shortage of grain have curtailed sowings, but the early autumn rains enabled cultivators to make a good start. In the north timely rains have occurred and whilst it is not expected that next year's will be a bumper crop, it is not likely that the present year's experience will be repeated.

#### *Cereals (experimental).*

The abnormally severe and prolonged winter involved a late start in spring growth, poor yields were general in spite of an entire absence of rust attack both on wheat and barley. The latter phenomenon rendered impossible selection of varieties for rust resistance.



*Wheat. Varietal.*

427 strains and varieties were harvested and 345 sown in 1925, distributed as follows :—

	Harvested in 1925.	Sown in 1925.
Single lines :—		
General .. .. .	107	117
Progeny of crosses .. .. .	206	153
Four lines .. .. .	63	14
Ten lines .. .. .	—	17
Single plots (1/20, 1/40, 1/80, acres) ..	34	28
Main varietal test .. .. .	17	16

Much useful information was gained ; among the outstanding features is the behaviour of the variety, Nyngan No. 3, an Australian wheat which for the fourth successive year has yielded well above any other tested, this merit being usually coupled with that of high rust resistance. This wheat, with six other promising strains, was propagated to the fullest extent, and in all about fifty-six tons of pure seed wheat have been sold to cultivators, sufficient to sow at least 1,600 acres. In most cases the Department retains an option on the produce. At Rustam, 203 acres of major and minor propagations have been sown in 1925. Twenty-two strains new to 'Iraq were received from Australia and India. Valuable assistance was given by the Imperial Institute, which carried out a milling and baking test of three wheats, among them Nyngan No. 3, which received a satisfactory report.

*Cultural experiments.*—The experiments on different systems of irrigation, cultivation and rates of sowing were continued and previous results largely confirmed. New investigations in regard to the date of sowing early and late varieties and the merits of several methods of controlling the disease known as "bunt" (*tilletia tritici*) gave definitely valuable results.

*Barley.*

Up to the 1924-25 season selection work had been almost confined to local types, but in 1924, thirteen varieties were introduced from Australia, India, the U.S.A. and England and a further fifteen in 1925. In all over 200 varieties and strains were tested thus :—

	Harvested in 1925.	Sown in 1925.
Single lines :—		
General .. .. .	23	70
Progeny of crosses .. .. .	146	79
Four lines .. .. .	22	22
Ten lines .. .. .	—	11
Single plots (1/20 and 1/80 acres) ..	22	21
Main varietal test .. .. .	6	7
Total .. .. .	219	210



None of the local types isolated has been considered of sufficient proved merit for large scale propagation, but several imported varieties seem very promising, in addition to material derived from crosses which is being carried forward for selection of fixed strains.

#### *Oats.*

For four years a type of Indian oat has been grown which yielded only poor quality grain, although it was prolific, luxuriant in growth and free from disease. In 1924, eleven varieties were introduced from England and the U.S.A. and a further twenty in 1925 from India, Australia, and the U.S.A. So far as can be judged English varieties are all too late in maturing, but one at least of the American strains is promising.

#### DATES.

The date season, on the whole, was very satisfactory. Following a hard winter, the crop flowered profusely, and a fairly heavy crop resulted. Prices paid to growers were good and in most cases merchants complain that the prices were higher than the economic limit. The quality of the fruit was good, and there was little disease evident amongst the palms.

In the north the palms had suffered greatly from the adverse climatic conditions of the winter preceding, but except in the extreme edge of the date zone, they yielded more heavily than had been expected.

It is believed that the effects of the frost in 1924-25 will be felt more on the 1926 season. Palms, even in Basra, undoubtedly were adversely affected. The loss in stamina which resulted was further aggravated by the comparatively heavy crop they bore, and it is to be feared that the combined effect will be to reduce the 1926 crop. It is probable that a rigorous thinning of the 1925 crop would have been an advisable measure.

#### MISCELLANEOUS CROPS.

##### *Flax.*

Little or no progress was made with this crop. The fall in prices, and the fear of further fall, due to the re-opening of the Russian source of supply, have combined to prevent any capital being invested in the crop. A large quantity of flax machinery, sufficient to equip a fairly large mill, has been imported, but the importers have allowed it to remain in its cases rather than spend money on the necessary buildings. It is obvious that the opportunity of a large and rapid expansion of this crop has been missed, and that if anything is to be done in the immediate future, it will be by the growing and home preparation of flax for export, rather than by large concerns.

The experimental work of the department has, however, continued though the prices received for this year's produce are anything but encouraging, and show a loss on working costs.



*Silk.*

The department bought, as usual, eggs from abroad and issued them to growers on payment. The silk produced shows a steady increase, and is likely to progress gradually. Owing to home production being less than the demand, and to the duty on importations, the price of raw silk is higher in Baghdad than abroad, and hence growers prepare their silk entirely for the local market, which prefers a coarse spun thread to the ordinary reeled silk. Silk reeled sufficiently coarsely, however, commands a higher price than this "spun" produce. Owing largely to the Department's policy of issuing disease-free eggs, the production of silk has steadily increased during the past three years. It cannot be denied, however, that the eggs imported are not entirely satisfactory, due to the failure of the worms to stand the climatic conditions prevailing towards the end of the rearing season. Attention is therefore being particularly directed to the isolation of pure strains of disease-free stock from the mixed and diseased local strain. During the past season seventy-five packets of twenty-five grams each of certified eggs have been produced by the department. These are pure-strain eggs and will be sold to growers. It is hoped to increase very considerably this production during the next year. During the year the experimental silk work and breeding work has been transferred to the central experimental research farm at Rustam, where the mulberries planted three years ago are now ready for use. It would appear that there is no reason why Iraq should not produce all the silk required locally, and, in future, be in a position to export a certain quantity.

*Wool.*

Owing to the very heavy mortality of sheep an enormous number of fleeces from dead sheep were available in the winter and early spring. These were sent down by sheep owners during the spring and were bought by merchants, together with the season's wool. The result was a large export, and high prices were paid to producers. The dead wool, however, was largely mixed indiscriminately with good wool and many merchants who dealt in this produce lost very heavily. The production of wool in 1926 will, it is anticipated, be very much less in quantity, though the quality may be expected to be considerably better.

## AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.

The work in the laboratories at Rustam continued on the same lines as in the previous year.

*Summary of examinations made.*

The number of samples examined during the year was 251, which may be classified as follows:

(a) Water .. .. .	28
(b) Soils .. .. .	198
(c) Oil seeds .. .. .	15
(d) Grapes .. .. .	8
(e) Miscellaneous .. .. .	2



The very high soluble salt content of the Diyala river water is giving rise to the greatest uneasiness. The water is absolutely non-potable in the summer months, and the effects of watering crops such as cotton with a concentrated saline solution are becoming evident. A scheme is under consideration for the establishment of a new pumping station on the Tigris bund at the nearest approach.

The result of the grape drying experiments performed by the chemist are of great interest. It appears that a raisin of very good quality can be produced from varieties of grapes already in existence in the country by a modified system of sun drying which consists of exposing them to the rays of the sun during the cooler parts of the day and by shading them up when the temperature rises above 100° Fahrenheit. The entire absence of rain during this drying period and the consequent freedom from risk of loss of crop make this a very promising avenue for development. Not only raisins, but all kinds of dried fruits might be easily and cheaply produced under the climatic condition prevailing at fruit harvest time.

#### ENTOMOLOGY.

The collection and identification of economic insects was continued throughout the year.

The life-history of the spotted boll worm (*Earias Insulana*) was studied continuously throughout the winter of 1924-25. As indicated last year, it was found that normally this insect does not hibernate in any form, but the moths hatch out even under the most adverse climatic conditions, with a correspondingly heavy mortality. This pest of cotton was therefore almost completely stamped out by the cold winter and at the experimental farm where cotton was left standing expressly to study the insect, it disappeared completely. It was found, however, that odd specimens do hibernate in a modified manner, particularly in heaps of cotton stalks which have been removed from the fields. The result is that a certain number survived into the summer of 1925. The numbers were exceedingly small, however, and the insect never reached the condition of a serious pest at Rustam, nor, on the whole, throughout the country, though odd plantations suffered to some extent. *Platyedra Vilella*, a near relative of *Platyedra Gossypiella*, the dreaded pink boll-worm, was also studied. During the early season great uneasiness was felt, since it appeared that this pest had definitely transferred from holly-hock to cotton, where it was found to behave exactly like the pink boll-worm. Comparatively early in the season, however, its ravages were checked by the increasing heat, and in the heat of the summer it was almost impossible to find specimens. The cooler days of autumn again produced specimens from the fields under observation, but the quantity was small, and it appears fairly certain that climatic conditions act as an effective check on the undue increase of this insect.



The entomologist was in Mosul during the spring in order to continue his investigation of the locust (*Doclostarus Marocanus*) and *Sunn* (*Eurygaster Integriceps*) pests.

The most important discovery was made with regard to the locust pest, namely that it is subject to the ravages of a parasite *Trichodes laminatus*. This parasite lays an egg inside the egg-case produced by the female locust, and this egg hatches and subsequently feeds on the locust eggs. The life-history is not yet fully worked out, but it would appear that a single parasite larva is capable of destroying more than one locust egg-case. This parasite was identified by the Imperial Bureau of Entomology, who had, however, no information to offer as to its life-history, though a near relative *Trichodes Amnios* was cited by them as being known to parasitise the egg masses of the Moroccan locust (*Staoronotus Marocanus*). Even though this parasite may have existed unnoticed during past years in the district, and though it may have reached the limit of its controlling power, it is none the less of vital importance since its activities may not have spread to other lands where the same locust pest occurs. The entomologist also satisfied himself of the efficacy, when properly used, of poison baits in the conditions prevailing last year, and found that the most satisfactory of these from all points of view was a sodium arsenite, bran and treacle preparation. He further introduced a system of destroying locust swarms in districts where stony ground renders the usual trenching process inapplicable, by means of canvas nets. The advancing line of a swarm of locusts is swept by a number of men and boys each armed with a net with a "D" shaped opening. It was found that 75 lb. of locusts could be collected by this means in one hour by a single man, and that the results when the work was well done were equivalent to, or perhaps better, than those achieved by trenching.

During his stay in the Mosul Liwa, the entomologist also studied the insect *Eurygaster Integriceps*. The hibernation place of these insects remains a mystery. The French authorities in Syria, where the pest occurs, have found it hibernating in the ground, but in northern Iraq prolonged and meticulous search has so far failed to confirm this. It is believed that it hibernates in the more northerly districts, in which for many reasons it has been impossible to conduct a search. In the Mosul Wilayat it usually appears in the adult stage in March. The adults do a certain amount of damage to the young crop, but almost immediately egg-laying takes place and it is the ravages of the immature nymphs which cause the serious losses to the cereal crop. These suck the stems and immature grains of wheat causing "dead-heart" and shrivelled grains. The past season's work of the entomologist has shown that the eggs are almost invariably laid on the under-side of certain fleshy-leaved weeds, where they are sheltered from both rain and sun. A sure method of control is indicated at once by this, since removal of such weeds after



egg-laying and before hatching reduces the pest enormously. The entomologist also demonstrated that owing to the loose manner in which the nymphs attach themselves to the ears of wheat during the time they are feeding, it is a matter of comparative ease to trap them by organised sweeping of the fields with canvas nets, similar to those used for locusts. He further showed that a light harrowing of the immature crop by brushwood harrows immediately after the eggs hatched, shook off and pressed into the ground the newly-hatched nymphs which were incapable of regaining their position on the wheat stalks.

A further discovery of great importance was that the eggs are parasitised to some extent by the Boctotrupid fly *Tellenomus Vessillieri* (Mayr). This parasite undoubtedly exercises a large measure of control. It has not been noted so far in Syria where the Sunn pest causes great damage annually, and might possibly be introduced there with advantage.

#### *Seed Testing Station (Basra).*

All importations of plants and living parts of plants were examined at the seed testing station, Basra. Numerous consignments of plants, particularly from India, were examined and although the number of such importations is not large, there were several cases where pests not so far present in the country were identified, and the consignment either suitably treated or destroyed. The entomologist in charge has also conducted investigations into the cause and control of insect pests of crops in the Basra district, particularly of dates. The corresponding function of examination of importations from Syria and Persia was carried out by the Central Experimental farm personnel. The Department is not sufficiently staffed to carry out in a satisfactory manner the provisions of the Importation of Plants Act which became law during the year under report, and closer co-operation is needed with the Customs and Post Office authorities. Further, the northern ingress into the country from Aleppo to Mosul, through which plants are known to enter the country, is unprovided with a competent examining official.

#### LOCUST CAMPAIGN.

As stated in the last report, an anti-locust campaign was inaugurated in the autumn of 1924. A sum of Rs. 48,000 was allocated by the Government to be used in this work. A British locust officer was appointed in the autumn, and five Iraqi assistants were appointed to assist him. The breeding grounds were located and Liwa authorities advised of them and egg-buying and ploughing of infested lands were begun. The extremely hard winter put a stop to all operations for practically the entire months of January and February, and when the weather conditions



ameliorated, both cultivations and cattle were found to be in an extremely weak condition. The general attitude was one of apathy and despair. It had been hoped that, by the application of the Forcible Assistance Law, a sufficiency of labour for the actual fight against locust-swarms might be made available, but in practice it was found that circumstances forbade any useful application of this law. Further, the cold winter had resulted in a backward cereal crop and a complete failure of desert vegetation. The result was that from the earliest stages the locusts descended on the crop and were able to prolong their ravages unduly.

Isolated patches of cereal crop sown in the desert by nomadic tribes and abandoned until harvest time, acted as provisions for the advancing hordes, and absence of adequate funds for providing at least food and water for man and beast prevented these swarms from being dealt with in a satisfactory manner. Altogether conditions were very adverse, but nevertheless good work was achieved by the anti-locust staff, in co-operation with the Liwa authorities. It may be stated that as a result of last year's campaign :—

- (a) The pest was completely eradicated south of the Jabal Hamrin over which it had penetrated in previous years, and from where it was threatening the crops of the Diyala canals.
- (b) The Kirkuk Liwa was saved very largely from the depredations of the pest, and the damage to young cereal crops was largely averted in the Arbil Liwa (mature swarms from the north descended later on these latter crops and did very great damage, however).
- (c) The losses from the pest in the Mosul area although enormous were considerably less than they would otherwise have been.
- (d) Valuable knowledge and experience which will be of the utmost use in future years were gained.

As a result of the recommendations of the Financial Mission, further work ceased in August of the year under report and the locust officer and the staff were withdrawn. Later, however, it was decided that the campaign should be resumed, if possible, in a more efficient manner. Accordingly the locust officer was reposted to Mosul in November and his staff re-engaged. A sum of Rs. 3,00,000 has been allocated for anti-locust work during the current season, of which Rs. 1,80,000 will be used by the Mutasarrif for the payment of labour. It is unfortunate that the three months, August, September and October, which are most valuable as egg collecting, and breeding ground ploughing months, should have been lost, but it is hoped that with the increased funds available it will be possible to produce correspondingly greater results.



### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

Owing to the financial stringency, it has not been possible to open the institute at Rustam to students. The research laboratories have been in use continuously, and the surplus accommodation has been used to house the British staff. Before the institute can be used for the purpose for which it was built, housing accommodation will be necessary for both students and teachers.

### AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS AND PROJECTS.

The grant of a concession to Dr. Naqib Beg Al 'Asfar, Hamdi Beg Al Pachahji and Thabit Beg 'Abdul Nur has been followed by the formation of two companies, namely Eastern Irrigations, Ltd. and the Diyala Cotton Plantation Company. The latter began operations in the country during the year under report. The land irrigated by the Nahr Ibrahim, a branch of the Mahrut canal in the Diyala zone, was laid down to cotton in the spring of the year. About 600 acres were ploughed, ridged and sown. Owing to the abnormally low summer level of the Diyala river, all the canals taking off from it were unusually short of water, and the Mahrut was no exception; it proved difficult to supply all the water needed for cultivation, but the plantation, in the event, suffered little or no water-shortage. Owing to the very hasty selection of the lands, and to the impossibility of making a survey (operations were started only during the year under review and the cotton was all sown by April) the plantation was not a very successful one. Unfortunately, negotiations as to the precise interpretation of the concession have occupied practically the whole year, and as a result, the end of this year finds the Company without adequate preparations for next year's crop. Cable cultivation tackle (a two-engine Maclaren outfit) has been imported, and ploughing once started will be rapid, but this ploughing should have been already done in preparation for next year's crop.

A London syndicate, the Wolfra Syndicate, completed arrangements during the year with Fakhri Beg Jamil Zadah for an eighteen year lease of the lands of the Haruniyah canal, one of the Diyala left bank canals. The managing agent of the syndicate in Baghdad is the firm of Cotterell and Greig, and this firm accordingly took over the management of the Haruniyah lands in the autumn of the year under report. They have put down a considerable area of wheat and barley during the sowing season, and preparations for cotton growing in 1926 are well in hand. This firm have besides cultivated, in association with the owner, the Dubuniyah (lift-irrigated) land on the Tigris. They succeeded in growing a successful cotton crop, and it is likely that their activities in the direction of agricultural projects in association with land-owners will be extended.



Towards the end of the year under report an association of local land-owners and agriculturists was formed with the object of developing agricultural properties. It is understood that this society has made an agreement with the 'Auqaf authorities to cultivate certain of their lands on the Tigris during the year 1926. His Majesty King Faisal has taken a great interest in the formation of this society and it is believed that he will consent to be president. The society intend to cultivate a considerable plantation of cotton next year. His Majesty King Faisal has, in addition, cultivated directly his estate at Khanaqin, where a very successful cotton crop has been produced.

#### AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS.

During the year under report the exports of main agricultural produce from the country were as follows :—

<i>Barley</i>	<i>Wheat</i>	<i>Wool</i>	<i>Dates.</i>
tons	tons	tons	tons
6,352	403	12,750	147,853
The corresponding figures for 1924, were as follows :—			
tons	tons	tons	tons
57,533	25,204	18,364	161,565

#### ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF.

The year has been a difficult one for the Department. In consequence of the appointment of an 'Iraqi director, it was proposed early in the year that the Department should be re-organised, that local circle officers should be appointed to replace the diminished staff of British officers, and that the latter should undertake inspection duties of wider areas. This re-organisation was incorporated in the Budget proposals for 1925. The proposal was discussed at length with the Financial Mission, who rejected it on account of the slightly increased cost, and recommended that departmental district work (including anti-locust work) should be entirely abandoned, and that the Department should be concentrated at the experimental farm where it would fulfil a purely technical function.

The recommendations of the Mission were accepted and accordingly, as from September 1st, the consequential reductions were made.

These involved the termination of the services of one British officer and of no less than five Indian farm managers and assistants, besides 12 'Iraqi agricultural inspectors and seven clerks. Following on these reductions a Parliamentary Budget Committee was assembled in October to examine the budgets of all departments and to recommend any possible economies. This committee recommended that the services of two of the remaining four British officers should be terminated and that the services of the two remaining Indian farm managers should also be dispensed with. The impossibility of obtaining 'Iraqis with similar training



was entirely overlooked in these recommendations. The official orders to carry out these recommendations have not been issued. Since then the decision to re-open anti-locust work has necessitated the transfer of one British officer to Mosul.

The past year has been the most critical for the Department since its formation, and it is satisfactory to note that some progress has been made, in spite of the numerous administrative difficulties.

### **7. Civil Veterinary and Remount Department.**

As the main portion of 'Iraq revenues is derived from its agriculture and its live stock and the former is almost entirely dependent on the latter, it is obvious that animal husbandry must play an important part in the country's progress.

Unfortunately, in 'Iraq there are constantly simmering most of the deadly contagious and infectious diseases affecting stock known to the East, and the country is always exposed to fresh infections from over its extensive frontiers. The importance of maintaining the health of the animals belonging to a poor community, almost entirely dependent on their flocks and herds for a living, cannot be over-estimated. Despite serious shortage of staff, the Department has made considerable progress during the year.

The technical staff of the Department consists of :—

1 Director (British).

1 Assistant Director and Bacteriologist (British).

10 Veterinary officers (8 Indians and 2 'Iraqis).

These are all fully qualified veterinarians.

During the year under report one additional 'Iraqi veterinary officer has been employed. This 'Iraqi was sent by the Department in 1921 to the Bengal Veterinary College and on qualifying in May this year, joined the Department in June. The policy of the Government is to send at least four suitable well-educated youths to India each year for training as veterinary surgeons. On graduating, after a three years' course, they will be given employment either in the Civil Veterinary Department or in the Army. At present there are five 'Iraqi students attending the Bengal Veterinary College. Two of these are earmarked for the Army.

In the batch of selected candidates to be sent in the next year it is hoped that at least one of the four will be of Kurdish nationality.

The main work of the Department has been :—

- (1) The control and eradication of the many outbreaks of infectious and contagious diseases of animals.



- (2) The examination before purchase of all Army and Police remounts. The veterinary charge of all Army and Police animals and the supply of all medicines and veterinary equipment.
- (3) The treatment of sick animals belonging to the civic population at the Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries situated in fourteen different centres.
- (4) Prevention of cruelty to animals.

*Rinderpest*, of all diseases of cattle, is capable of inflicting the most severe loss. The annual migration each winter of the Kurdish-Iraqi Kochar tribes from over the Turkish and Persian frontiers to the Mosul, Arbil and Kirkuk Liwas carries with it this disease. This year, thanks to the appreciation on the part of the tribes who had experienced the benefit of inoculations against the disease in the previous years, reports of disease were early to hand and every outbreak checked before extensive infection had taken place. Also by the systematic inspection of all the animals on arrival over the frontiers by Veterinary officers, the Department was able to make an early attack. Over 23,000 of the Kochar animals were inspected on arrival in the Mosul Liwa alone.

As the chief route of the migration was into the Arbil Liwa, a short extract from the annual report of the Veterinary Officer there may be of interest.

He writes : " The Arbil Liwa can be divided into two sections, viz., the mountains and the plains. The inhabitants of the hills are entirely dependent on their live-stock in cattle, sheep and goats. To save their animals is to save themselves from death. The Kurd does not care much for the future, he looks only to the present. When he pays a rupee in the shape of revenue he expects to get it back with compound interest. The only palpable benefit he realizes in return for what he pays is in medical and veterinary relief. I have been received with the greatest hospitality in the Kurdish houses in the further corner of the Liwa when they realized that I had come to save their animals from the clutches of cattle plague and other diseases. Veterinary and medical help are the greatest factors in gaining the goodwill of the Kurds. Under the Turkish regime they had never seen a veterinary officer attending to their animals which used to die by thousands when an outbreak occurred through want of veterinary assistance. The veterinary help which they now receive is considered by the Kurds as one of the greatest boons of the present administration."

Three of the outbreaks in October and November at Mergamin, Rania and Ruwandiz in the Arbil Liwa were of the most virulent type. Through the immediate action taken by the veterinary officer, infection of the whole country was prevented. 8,653 head of cattle were inoculated in this district alone. The anti-rinderpest



serum supplied by the Imperial Institute of Veterinary Research, Muktesar, India, has again proved efficacious. 10,293 animals were inoculated, 1,597 died before inoculation and only 148 after inoculation.

*Cases of Glanders* were detected in most parts of the country. The places on the Persian pilgrim route to the holy city of Karbala were most affected. The routine practice of periodically testing with mallein all Army and Police animals has been carried out. One fatal case in a human being occurred in Baghdad. 85 animals were destroyed during the year.

*Anthrax* is not prevalent. A few sporadic outbreaks occurred, the main one being amongst the Army horses in Baghdad. Only nineteen cases were proved positive, one being in a cow. No sheep and no goats died of this disease during the year, a point of great importance in view of the large export trade in wool, hides, skins and casings, especially to the United States of America.

A severe outbreak of hæmorrhagic septicæmia occurred chiefly affecting buffaloes living in the marshy areas of 'Amara, Basra and Nasiriya. Over 800 died from the disease. The rivers Euphrates and Tigris were at a lower level than they had been for at least forty years. The stagnant condition of the marshes, after the period of drought, provided a suitable medium for the spread of the contagion.

There had been no hæmorrhagic septicæmia in 'Iraq since 1920 until this year. 1,424 animals were inoculated. No deaths took place after inoculation.

The number of reported deaths from contagious diseases is 15,652 as compared with 23,509 in 1924. In the Kut and 'Amara Liwas, 12,849 of these were among sheep and goats affected with strongylosis and exposed to the intense cold experienced in the month of January, together with lack of sufficient grazing.

The District Officers in the course of their regular tours of inspection of Police animals and attendance on outbreaks travelled 24,148 miles. In the northern mountainous areas, ponies, mules and pack animals, were the only means of transport—a slow and hazardous task. In the marshes of the 'Amara and Basra Liwas, launch and *mashhuf* had to be used to carry the officer and his bulky veterinary equipment.

All the Liwas were visited during the year by either the Director or the Assistant Director.

At the request of the local authorities, the veterinary officers stationed at Mosul, Ramadi, Nasiriya, Ba'quba and 'Amara, inspected before and after slaughter for human consumption 275,521 head of cattle, sheep and goats.

About 1,600 cruelty cases were arrested by the Police and treated in Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries.



The Director is the Veterinary Adviser to the 'Iraq Army and responsible for its veterinary organization and service.

All remounts both for the Army and Police are passed by the Department's Officers before purchase. 476 horses were purchased during the year.

The practice of castrating all remounts has more than justified itself. Both the Army and Police have now a well-mounted force.

The training of shoeing-smiths and men as veterinary dressers has been carried out at the various Veterinary Hospitals, thirty-eight men being passed out for the Army and Police.

*Research Work.*—Since the appointment of the second British officer as Assistant to the Director and Research Officer, much important work has been done. Opportunities for research are many. Most interesting work has been done in cutaneous leishmaniasis in dogs, a disease found to be fairly common in 'Iraq. The close relationship of this disease to kala-azar, oriental sore or Baghdad boil and the leishmaniasis of the Mediterranean makes the work all the more valuable.

Owing to lack of funds no breeding operations have been carried out. A scheme has already been drawn up for the improvement of the various breeds of horses, cattle and sheep.

From all reports and observations the Arab pony is degenerating through indiscriminate breeding selections.

The average plough animal is extremely poor and could easily be improved by the introduction of foreign bulls and the universal castration of weedy calves.

There is no area in which the mortality amongst stock can be ascribed to diseases of malnutrition.

All the sheep are of the fat-tailed variety and cattle have a well-developed hump, the animals' natural reserve of food-stuff which enables them to survive the hot summer season when all herbage except that in the river or canal areas, is withered and dry.

The type of the milking stock all over is very poor and the milk yield low in consequence.

The importation of stud animals in the form of Sindi and Ayrshire bulls, employed on the Military Dairy Farm during the war, resulted in progeny showing a marked increase in milk production and in size. But time has almost eliminated this characteristic from their crosses. A great susceptibility to rinderpest in these animals was noticed.

The result of the year's work compared with that of the previous years has shown a marked improvement. The ignorance of the stock owners has now given place to confidence in modern veterinary methods and in an ever-increasing demand for skilled veterinary assistance.

The passing of the Diseases of Animal Law, 1924, and its concise orders has greatly facilitated the work of the Department.



Table showing the result of preventive inoculation during the year ending 31st December, 1925.

Divisions or Liwas.	Name of disease against which inoculation was performed.	Method of inoculation followed.	No. of outbreaks in which inoculation was carried out.	No. of animals which died uninoculated.			No. of animals inoculated.			No. of animals died after inoculation.		
				Equine	Bovine	Others	Equine	Bovine	Others	Equine	Bovine	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Baghdad	Anthrax ..	Serum alone	2	7	1	—	124	—	—	—	—	—
Diyda	Rinderpest ..	do.	1	—	6	—	—	108	—	—	—	—
Hilla ..	nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dulaim	nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Mosul	Rinderpest ..	Serum alone	4	—	110	—	—	537	—	—	—	—
Kut	nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Amara	Rinderpest ..	Sera alone	1	—	11	—	—	80	—	—	—	—
"	Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia ..	do.	9	—	365	—	—	265	—	—	—	—
Basra ..	Rinderpest ..	do.	4	—	75	—	—	645	—	—	—	—
"	Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia ..	do.	5	—	148	—	—	880	—	—	—	—
Nasiraya	Anthrax ..	do.	1	1	—	—	27	—	—	—	—	—
"	Rinderpest ..	do.	1	—	—	—	—	110	—	—	—	—
"	Hæmorrhagic Sep- ticæmia ..	do.	3	—	306	—	—	260	—	—	—	—
Kirkuk	Rinderpest ..	do.	1	—	60	—	—	160	—	—	—	—
"	Hæmorrhagic Sep- ticæmia ..	do.	1	10	—	—	19	—	—	—	—	—
Arbil ..	Rinderpest ..	do.	38	—	1,335	—	—	8,653	—	—	148	—
Karbala	nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diwaniya	nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Samawa	nil	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL			71	18	2,417	—	170	11,698	—	—	148	—



### III. MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

*NOTE.—Throughout this Section whenever a financial year is referred to, it means the financial year commencing 1st April of such year and ending 31st March of the following year, e.g. the financial year 1924 means the financial year 1st April, 1924 to 31st March, 1925.*

#### 1. General.

The previous report covered the period from 1st April, 1923 to November, 1924. It is thought, however, that a report for the four months, December, 1924 to March, 1925, would not serve any useful purpose and that it is preferable to furnish a report for the whole financial year 1924, even though this results in overlapping the previous report.

The Finance Minister at the beginning of the year was Haji Muhsin Chalabi Shalash. In August, 1924, Sasun Haskail again became Finance Minister in the Cabinet formed by Yasin Pasha al Hashimi.

Mr. S. H. Slater, C.I.E., who had been Financial Adviser to the 'Iraq Government since its inception, resigned his appointment in December, 1924, and his successor, Mr. R. V. Vernon, C.B., was not appointed until October, 1925.

Perhaps the most noteworthy feature of the year was the appointment of a mission to enquire into the finances of 'Iraq. It had been clear for some time that the new 'Iraq State would be unable to meet its external obligations (i.e. to His Britannic Majesty's Government and the bondholders of the Ottoman Public Debt), and at the same time satisfy the insistent demands for the expansion of the national army without tapping fresh sources of revenue and exercising the most stringent economy in public expenditure. A proposal was accordingly made by His Britannic Majesty's Government to send a mission to 'Iraq. The proposal was cordially welcomed by the 'Iraq Government.

The terms of reference to the mission were: "To enquire and report to His Britannic Majesty's and the 'Iraq Governments what steps should be taken to ensure that it shall be possible to balance the 'Iraq Budget during the treaty period and afterwards, having regard to:—

- (1) The requirements of the country for defence and security, administration and development.
- (2) The provisions of the Financial Agreement.
- (3) The obligations in respect of the Ottoman Public Debt imposed by the Treaty of Lausanne."

The mission consisted of Lt.-Commander the Right Honourable E. Hilton Young, P.C., M.P., and Mr. R. V. Vernon, C.B.; they began their investigations in March, 1925.



## 2. Cadre Commission.

The Cadre Commission which had been appointed in April, 1923, failed to complete its task, mainly owing to pressure of work which prevented the already inadequate staff of the Finance Ministry from giving this complicated question the necessary attention. The work of the Commission had been distributed among four sub-committees, of which the three that dealt respectively with pensions, disciplinary regulations and the conditions of entrance into Government service had produced their reports. The sub-committee, however, to which the main task had fallen, namely, that of prescribing cadres and rates of pay, had failed to begin its labours; nor had the reports of the other sub-committees been dealt with by the Commission as a whole. In fact, the 1923 Commission must be regarded as moribund, if not dead, by the end of 1924, although the results of its deliberations are on record and will furnish useful material for the new Commission which has since been appointed.

## 3. Ottoman Public Debt.

The Council of the Ottoman Public Debt, acting on the authority of Articles 46 and 47 of the Treaty of Lausanne, distributed the liability on account of the Ottoman Public Debt between the various contributory States and the result was communicated in November, 1924.

The share of the annuity claimed from 'Iraq (Baghdad, Basra and Mosul) was as follows :—

	£ T.
Annuity on account of funded debts ..	360,086
Annuity on account of advances ..	11,452
Annuity on account of treasury bonds ..	170,870
Service of the loans ..	225
Annuity on account of arrears contribution	80,068

£ T. 622,701

'Iraq, in common with the majority of the other States concerned, exercised its right of appeal under Article 47 of the Lausanne Treaty. M. Eugene Borel was appointed arbitrator by the Council of the League of Nations, and, after hearing all the parties concerned, gave his award at Geneva on 21st April, 1925. The effect was to reduce the annuity to the following :—

	£ T.
Annuity on account of funded debts ....	358,494
Annuity on account of advances ....	11,406
Annuity on account of treasury bonds ....	115,953
Service of the loans ..	224
Annuity on account of arrears contribution	79,624

£ T. 565,701



It is to be noted that the above amount represents the annuity due in respect of the *first* year of the service of the debt and contains provision for the service of loans, treasury bonds, advances, etc., redeemable in various periods, the shortest being three years in the case of the treasury bonds and the longest being about eighty-five years in the case of the loan for the Baghdad Railway.

The amounts shown above are in £Turkish, but this is purely nominal and the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt specified various currencies in which they held various parts of the annuities to be payable. The interested States do not in general accept the currencies in which the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt have made their calculations. This question is still unsettled: it was referred to the Arbitrator, who expressed the opinion that the contracting parties to the Treaty of Lausanne purposely omitted any reference to the currency of payment in the provisions of the Treaty, thereby reserving the rights of the bondholders, and ruled that in the circumstances it was not a matter for the Council of the Ottoman Public Debt to decide, nor one within his competence to determine.

In the absence of a definite determination of the currency, it is, of course, impossible to ascertain the precise liability of the 'Iraq Government, or to give the guarantees which are required under Article 48 of the Treaty of Lausanne. A provision of Rs. 30 lakhs was made in the 1924 Budget, but was not actually expended.

#### 4. Foreign Trade.

The volume of the total trade of the country (including transit trade) shewed an increase over the two previous financial years, the figures being in lakhs of rupees:—

				Gross Imports.	Gross Exports.
1922	..	..	..	1,678	1,079
1923	..	..	..	1,815	1,358
1924	..	..	..	1,912	1,420

The net imports and exports (i.e. re-exports excluded) were:—

				Net Imports.	Net Exports.	Excess of net Imports over net Exports.
1922	..	..	..	969	370	599
1923	..	..	..	879	422	457
1924	..	..	..	911	419	492

There was thus an adverse trade balance of 492 lakhs for the year. As this matter has recently been referred to locally with alarm in parliamentary debates and articles in the press, as an indication that the country is living on its capital, it is desirable to mention the other factors which should be taken into account



in examining the state of the country's trade. In a country such as 'Iraq, in which large forces are maintained at the expense of another government, and in which there exist wealthy foreign trading and development companies, the "invisible exports" are a very important factor. Practically the whole of the cash expenditure of the British forces in 'Iraq (both on the employment of local labour and for the payment of the troops) can be considered as such; while other important items are the income derived from services rendered in the Persian transit trade, the expenditure on local labour and purchases in 'Iraq financed by foreign capital (in particular, the expenditure of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company in the area known as "Transferred Territories"), expenditure in the country by pilgrims and tourists, consuls and missionaries, the net income derived from foreign investments and the net contributions received by the Christian and Jewish communities from benevolent societies abroad.

Some of these items represent relatively small sums, the amount of which it is difficult to estimate, but as regards the first-mentioned, actual figures are available. The Financial Mission states in its report that the expenditure in 'Iraq by the British forces was 410 lakhs in 1922, 370 lakhs in 1923 and 270 lakhs in 1924. It is, perhaps, inadvisable to take such a short period as one year in attempting to calculate the effect of these factors; a longer period, say three years, would theoretically at least form a sounder basis. In the three years shown above, the total excess of net imports over net exports was 1,448 lakhs; for the same period, the total cash expenditure in 'Iraq by the British forces was 1,050 lakhs; if in addition to this due weight is given to the other "invisible exports" mentioned above, it would appear that the country is in a position to maintain its present volume of foreign trade without depleting its capital.

A word of caution, however, is necessary. The policy of the British Government is to reduce its commitments in 'Iraq and therefore a gradual or even rapid diminution of her expenditure in 'Iraq must be expected. On the other hand, it is to be hoped that this will be counterbalanced by expenditure on developments financed by foreign capital (e.g. on behalf of the Turkish Petroleum Company).

Apart from its wider interest, the question closely concerns the Finance Ministry in its efforts to estimate accurately the receipts due from customs import duties.

##### 5. Customs and Excise.

In the preceding paragraph, figures are given which show the gross and net imports and exports, while in Appendix I. will be found figures showing the actual and estimated receipts from customs and excise duties.



So far as the administration of the customs and excise is concerned during the period under review, there are several points of interest. Under the Transit Trade Law which came into effect in 1925, the duty on goods declared in transit and remaining in the country not more than six months, was reduced from one to one-half per cent. It must be noted, however, that the privilege of being treated as "in transit" applies only to goods following certain prescribed routes and that these routes did not cover goods passing into Turkey or Syria.

In the same law, provisions were included with the object of increasing the facilities offered to the transit trade, having due regard to the paramount necessity of safeguarding customs revenues. The chief alteration was relief from the provisional payment of *full* duty. The conditions laid down were that either the goods should be placed in bond or they should be handed over to a licensed transporter who would guarantee to pass them out of the country without delay.

Another noteworthy feature was the conclusion of a Transit Trade Agreement with Syria under which each Government undertook to levy a transit duty of one-half per cent. only on goods declared to be in transit. This agreement was signed on 21st January, 1925, though it did not come into force until 1st April, 1925. In virtue of this Agreement it became necessary to prescribe a new Transit Trade route, i.e. between Syria and Iraq.

The following tariff changes took place :—

The tariff valuation basis for assessment of duty on cotton piece goods, foreshadowed in the Customs Administration Report for 1923, was introduced on the 15th December, 1924. The system is similar to that in force in Egypt, the valuations being based on the weight per square yard of cloth—the lighter the cloth the higher the tariff valuation. From the customs point of view, the new system has this great advantage over the *ad valorem* system : it eliminates the necessity for ascertaining from day to day the real wholesale market value of the various kinds of piece goods. From the merchant's point of view, the fact that the actual amount of duty payable on any particular kind of piece goods is a fixed and known quantity for a period of six months, enables him to arrive at the exact cost of his goods before they are cleared from customs, or even before they arrive in the country, and to fix his selling price accordingly. A further advantage from the merchant's point of view is that under the tariff valuation system all goods of the same kind and quality pay exactly the same rate of duty, irrespective of any manipulation of market rates by their competitors.

The duty on cinematograph films was changed from 20 per cent., on a tariff valuation of three annas per foot, to a fixed duty of five-rupees per kilo. Although the tariff valuation method



of calculating the duty was a considerable improvement over the previous method of 20 per cent. *ad valorem*, it was found in practice that the invoices of the importers rarely showed the exact number of feet of any particular film and that the winding of films on to a measuring machine very often damaged them ; it was therefore decided to follow the example of Portugal and assess duty on a weight basis. It is considered that no loss of duty has occurred through this change of method, which has made for additional simplicity and convenience for both the customs staff and importers.

The surtax on playing cards of one rupee per pack was abolished and the *ad valorem* duty increased from 15 to 50 per cent. This change was made because it was found that the surtax of one rupee per pack, which was equivalent to about 400 per cent. *ad valorem* on the cheaper kind of French playing cards largely imported here, was such an incentive to smuggling that very few legitimate importations occurred.

The duty on saccharine was considerably increased and changed from an *ad valorem* duty of 20 per cent. to a fixed rate of duty of two annas per gramme (Rs. 125/- per kilo.). A law for the control of the importation, sale, and use of saccharine by a system of licences is at present in draft, and it is anticipated that this, when enacted, will effectively prevent illicit importation.

The duty on manufactured tobacco and cigarettes was increased from Rs. 5 per kilo to Rs. 6 per kilo.

The duty on artificial manures was abolished.

## 6. Pensions.

During the year under review the revision of the allowances being paid was steadily pursued, with a view to the discontinuance of those which were not in strict conformity with the law.

The question of pensions was a subject which was brought within the scope of the Cadre Commission and, this being so, the Finance Ministry strenuously resisted all attempts to modify or amplify the Pensions Law.

The Ministry was not, however, always successful in its resistance.

The following were the most important modifications carried out during the year under review :—

- (1) The grant of proportionate pension to Army officers with services of more than fifteen and less than twenty-five years.
- (2) An amendment of the Ma'zuliya Law, providing that military officers who have served as Ministers for not less than six months and who are not already placed on pension, shall be entitled to Ma'zuliya pay.

*Note.*—Ma'zuliya is in the nature of "unemployed pay."



(3) The cessation of the payment of all "extra legal" allowances (i.e., allowances inadmissible under the Pensions Law) gave rise to some hard cases. It was resolved, therefore, to apply the Turkish law governing the grant of allowances to destitute persons (Turkish Muhtajin Law).

This law enabled the Ministry to continue allowances in certain deserving cases.

In accordance with a decision of the Council of Ministers, certain "Dhatiyah" allowances were admitted as from 13th October, 1924. These payments are in the nature of personal allowances and the claim to such does not rest on law, but on the fact that the recipients enjoyed the allowances under the Turkish Government. The examination of such claims is a difficult and invidious task, while in many cases the reasons governing the original grant of the allowances do not appear sufficient to justify their continuance. The whole question needs careful consideration.

The expenditure on pensions for the years 1921-24 was as follows :—

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Expenditure (lakhs of rupees).</i>
1921 .. .. .	18.80
1922 .. .. .	16.64
1923 .. .. .	17.11
1924 .. .. .	17.09

The 1924 charge represents 3.24 per cent. of the gross revenue, railways and port excluded. An attempt has been made to compare this with the percentages of the pension charges which fall on the Egyptian, Turkish and Palestinian Treasuries.

The comparison, taking as a basis the 1925 estimates of gross revenues of those countries, is as follows :—

	<i>Per cent</i>
Egypt.. .. .	7.23
Palestine .. .. .	0.72
Turkey .. .. .	7.84

As has already been mentioned, the Finance Ministry stoutly resisted all attempts to amplify the Pensions Law, though not always with success. There is a very real danger that new obligations may be entered into lightly. The financial effect of what may appear to be very trifling concessions is difficult to calculate and at the same time may be very considerable. It is, therefore, necessary to watch very jealously any attempts to extend the scope of the law.



### 7. Accounts Department.

The only important change in the organisation and functions of this Department during the year under review was the transfer of the inspectorate work and staff to the Ministry.

The Department was prompt in the submission of its monthly statements of receipts and expenditure, a factor which is of the greatest value to good administration.

The Accountant-General had not, up to the close of the financial year under review, been able to complete his review of outstanding balances (assets and liabilities). The non-completion of this work rendered it difficult for the Ministry to form an accurate judgment of the cash requirements of the Treasury, with the result that the tendency was to keep larger cash balances in the Treasury than were actually necessary.

### 8. Comptroller and Auditor-General.

The Auditor-General's Department was constituted in April, 1924, as a Department independent of the Ministry of Finance, for the purpose of verifying expenditure and reporting to the legislative authority whether expenditure has been in accordance with the appropriations approved by Parliament and the moneys paid in accordance with the rules prescribed by law. Since trained auditors could not be spared from the Accountant-General's or other Departments, the early portion of the year was taken up with the recruitment and training of new staff. A systematic test-audit of the accounts for 1924-25 was begun in September, 1924, and continued until the end of November, 1925.

Numerous technical irregularities came to notice, and in one case overpayments to a contractor to the extent of over Rs. 1,00,000 were detected and recovered.

On grounds of economy and administrative convenience, the appointment of Auditor-General was combined with that of Inspector-General of Accounts throughout the year 1924-25. This combination of the dual functions, however, had the disadvantage of tending to obscure and weaken the Auditor-General's independence of the Ministry of Finance, and it was discontinued in March, 1925, when the post of Chief Finance Inspector was created.

### 9. The Budget and its Administration.

Appendices are attached shewing the budget estimates for the year 1924 and the actuals. It will be observed that against a total sum voted of 575.59 lakhs the actual expenditure was only 464.86 lakhs. That is to say, there was underspending to the extent of 110.73 lakhs. Thus, as in the previous year, there was a relatively enormous saving in expenditure. The casual critic



must inevitably be led to the conclusion that the preparation of the budget is not undertaken by the Finance Ministry with reasonable care and appreciation. It is, therefore, very desirable to analyse closely the reasons for the saving. For the second year in which a grant was made for the service of the Ottoman Public Debt, the provision lapsed. This afforded a saving of 30 lakhs. The second item for debt services also lapsed; this was the sum of 5 lakhs provided to meet the annuity in respect of debt for the Capital Assets taken over from His Britannic Majesty's Government. Further sums provided in the budget against which no expenditure was incurred were (a) the 4.50 lakhs provided to meet payments due by the 'Iraq Treasury to the British Officials' Provident Fund, and (b) the sum of 5 lakhs allotted to cover the expenses of the Senate and Chamber of Deputies. No expenditure was incurred in the case of the first of these items, as the contracts providing for the creation of the Provident Fund were not given during the course of the year, and in the case of the second item, Parliament did not, in fact, assemble during the year, owing to delay in the elections. These total lapses of provision amount in the aggregate to 44.50 lakhs. They represented mainly, though not entirely, postponement of expenditure rather than a real saving, and the Finance Ministry was not in a position to forecast this at the time when the estimates were prepared. Deducting this figure of 44.50 lakhs from the total saving, a sum of 66.23 lakhs is left to be accounted for.

Classified under main heads this underspending occurred as follows :—

	<i>Lakhs.</i>
Pensions .. .. .	3.00
Salaries .. .. .	21.00
Stores .. .. .	18.50
Conveyance of mails .. .. .	1.00
Customs duty refunds and draw-backs .. .. .	2.00
Irrigation, building and telegraph construction works .. .. .	15.00
Surveys .. .. .	3.00
Other items .. .. .	2.80(net)

The amount provided for pensions proved to be considerably over-estimated, but it was difficult to foresee the effect of the decision given towards the close of the financial year 1923, extending the period of time in which 'Iraqis, who were officers in the Turkish Army or who had been civil servants in the Turkish administration, could return to 'Iraq and become entitled to the benefit of the 'Iraq Pension Law. In fact, the number of such applicants for pensions under this decision was considerably less than anticipated.

The considerable underspending on the estimates for salaries was due, to the extent of 7 lakhs, to failure to recruit the new battalions of the Army as rapidly as expected. The balance of the



saving was due mainly to two causes. In the first place, the budget provided for a considerable deficit and at the time of accepting it the Council issued strict orders for every possible economy to be effected and for establishment cadres wherever possible to be kept below full strength. Secondly, the estimates were prepared on the assumption that the ban on the grant of annual increments, imposed in the previous year, would be withdrawn in the course of the new year. This anticipation was not realized, and the considerable provision made for increments lapsed. A further cause was that the estimates provided for administrative and revenue services in certain areas of the Kirkuk and Arbil Liwas which were not set up during the year.

The failure to spend the full sums allotted for purchasing stores was due almost wholly to delay in the delivery of military stores and materials ordered by the Army. This lapse of provision represented a mere postponement of expenditure.

In the case of the spending Departments of Public Works and Irrigation, the saving was almost entirely due to the late date at which the estimates for the year were passed, and consequently the short time available for progress on new works provided for. It was also due to a decision not to proceed with certain of the irrigation projects which the estimates assumed would be undertaken.

The two Survey Departments, one for topographical and cadastral surveys and the other for contour surveys, were also handicapped in completing their programme by the late date of sanction to the estimates. Their underspending represented a saving of 25 per cent. on their estimates.

Underspending also arose on numerous other items of the estimates, but was counteracted to a certain extent by overspending on others. It is not considered necessary to refer specifically to these, particularly as no supplementary votes were passed during the year.

The causes which gave rise to general underspending are various. Some have already been indicated; of these, possibly, the most effective was the delay in the issue of final sanction to the budget until after seven months of the financial year had passed, during which period the Finance Ministry refused to agree to any expenditure on new projects other than those of the greatest urgency. Delay in the sanctioning of the budget has in fact been a constant feature of the financial administration since the inception of the 'Iraq Government. This has been, no doubt due partly to the financial machinery not being quite adequate for its task, but the main reason has been the failure of the successive Cabinets to determine their policy in sufficient time to enable the Ministry to prepare and submit the budget. Though one result of this has



been a perhaps unexpected saving, the delay is a very unsatisfactory feature, and it is hoped that in future years there will be an improvement in this respect. The Organic Law, in fact, makes definite provision for the submission of the annual budget to Parliament before the beginning of the financial year to which it relates.

Even, however, if allowance be made for all these disturbing causes, the fact remains that there is a great tendency on the part of Departments to over-estimate and that the Ministry of Finance has not been entirely successful in combating it.

### 10. Financial results of the year.

The receipts and expenditure for the four years 1921, 1922, 1923 and 1924 were as follows (in lakhs of rupees) :—

	<i>Revenue.</i>	<i>Expendi- ture.</i>	<i>Surplus.</i>	<i>Deficit.</i>
1921 .. ..	528·25	572·13	—	43·88
1922 .. ..	474·67	485·81	—	11·14
1923 .. ..	509·41	424·27	85·14	—
1924 .. ..	527·33	464·86	62·47	—
	<u>2,039·66</u>	<u>1,947·07</u>	<u>147·61</u>	<u>55·02</u>

Surplus 92·59

It will thus be seen that at 31st March, 1925, there was an aggregate surplus of revenue over expenditure amounting to 92·59 lakhs. Of this sum, cash was held by the Treasuries and 'Iraq agents to the amount of 41·28 lakhs, while a sum of 15 lakhs was deposited with the banks. A precise statement as to how the difference (36·31 lakhs) is made up cannot be made with accuracy until the Accountant-General has completed his review of balances, to which a reference has already been made above, but it may be mentioned here that sums amounting to approximately 34 lakhs were furnished by the 'Iraq Treasury for railway projects—such as the extensions to Kirkuk and Karbala—and approximately 15 lakhs were locked up in the stores held by the Irrigation and Public Works Departments. On the other hand, approximately 50 lakhs were outstanding under deposits with the Treasury, of which the main item was 15 lakhs due in respect of customs transit duties.

### 11. The Port of Basra.

The year 1925 closed with the Port in a very satisfactory position despite the fact that trade conditions during the year were depressed, and that the grain harvest, from which good results had been expected, did not reach expectations owing to the practical failure of the crop in the Mosul area. Fortunately,



a good date season enabled the export of dates to make up to a large extent for the failure of the grain traffic, and, on the whole, the volume of business showed a slight improvement on that of the previous year.

A substantial cash reserve is steadily being built up to provide for capital replacements and a programme of new works, and the second instalment of repayment of the capital debt, and interest on the balance, due to His Britannic Majesty's Government was paid promptly and in full.

#### BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS.

The estimated receipts and expenditure for the financial year ending 31st March, 1925, were approved as follows :—

Receipts .. .. .	Rs. 28,89,550
Expenditure .. .. .	Rs. 29,90,064
Estimated Deficit ..	Rs. 1,00,514

The actual receipts and expenditure resulted as follows :—

Receipts .. .. .	Rs. 33,69,865
Expenditure .. .. .	Rs. 30,07,807
Surplus ..	Rs. 3,62,058

Included in the figures of expenditure is the amount paid in amortization of the capital debt and charges on account of expenditure on new works to the extent of Rs. 1,80,813. The increase of actual revenue over estimates is due to the fact that a proposed reduction in charges, which it was hoped to have put into effect during the financial year, had to be held up and fees at the higher rates were collected throughout the year. The reduction was, however, effected on the 1st April, 1925, and has given considerable relief to cargo dealt with by the Port Authorities. The results of the working of the Port from the 1st April, 1925, to the end of the calendar year 1925, have amply justified the reduction which has been effected, and are such as to justify a further substantial reduction in the rate of fees collected early in the year 1926.

#### TRAFFIC.

The total tonnage landed from or shipped into vessels or conveyed through the Port during the year was 691,120, of which, 378,315 tons represent imports, and 312,805 tons were exports. The total number of ocean going steamers which passed through the Port was 601, 188 of which actually passed through Basra and the remainder visited Abadan only.

#### GENERAL REMARKS.

No action had been taken by the end of the year in the matter of setting up the Port Trust, as contemplated in Art. 10 of the



Financial Agreement, but proposals to this end are now under active discussion. The Port is still administered under the aegis of the 'Iraq Government, and the procedure followed has worked very satisfactorily. The object chiefly aimed at in administering the Port is to provide efficient and quick service as economically as possible in order to reduce to the minimum the weight of charges upon trade. Much has been done in this direction since the Port became a civil organization and further progress is noticeable as each year passes.

#### BUDGET AND ACCOUNTS

The estimated receipts and expenditure for the financial year ending 31st March 1937 were approved as follows—

Receipts	Rs. 24,00,000
Expenditure	Rs. 22,00,000

Estimated Receipts Rs. 24,00,000

The actual receipts and expenditure for the financial year ending 31st March 1937 were as follows—

Receipts	Rs. 23,00,000
Expenditure	Rs. 20,00,000

Actual Receipts Rs. 23,00,000

Included in the figures of expenditure is the amount paid in amortisation of the capital debt and charges on account of expenditure on new works to the extent of Rs. 10,00,000. It is to be noted that the actual receipts and expenditure is due to the fact that a proposed reduction in charges, which it was hoped to have put into effect in the financial year ended at the end of the year, was not collected throughout the year. This reduction was however, effected on the 1st April 1937 and has given considerable relief to cargo dues with the Port Authorities. The results of the working of the Port from the 1st April 1937 to the end of the calendar year 1937 have amply justified the reduction which has been effected and it is to be noted that a further reduction in the rate of dues collected only in the year 1937.

The total tonnage landed from or shipped into vessels or conveyed through the Port during the year was 91,120 of which 37,875 tons represent imports and 53,245 tons were exports. The total number of cargo gear stevedores which passed through the Port was 601,188 of which 18,000 were stevedores and the remainder being other staff.

The Port has been able to maintain the standard of service and the Port has been able to maintain the standard of service and the Port has been able to maintain the standard of service.



## APPENDIX I.

FINANCIAL YEAR 1924.

Revenue.		Estimates	Actuals
		(in lakhs of Rs.)	(in lakhs of Rs.)
Taxes on Natural Produce, etc.			
Agricultural produce ..	109.50	111.36	
Other produce .. ..	3.20	2.98	
Kodah (Animal tax) ..	30.50	31.64	
Minerals .. ..	1.20	1.12	
Rents and tolls .. ..	5.65	5.82	
	150.05	152.92	
Property tax .. ..	17.50	18.69	
Stamp duty .. ..	15.01	13.39	
Miscellaneous .. ..	20.58	19.89	
Customs and Excise.			
Customs :—			
Import duty .. ..	173.00	189.95	
Export duty .. ..	9.50	10.06	
Transit duty .. ..	9.00	9.79	
Miscellaneous .. ..	3.03	2.49	
Excise :—			
Liquor .. ..	12.75	9.99	
Salt .. ..	4.42	2.84	
Tobacco .. ..	21.97	22.96	
Opium .. ..	.87	.86	
Miscellaneous .. ..	.04	.06	
	234.58	249.00	
Posts and Telegraphs	29.62	32.74	
Court fees and fines ..	14.00	13.59	
Tapu .. ..	9.00	9.25	
Health Service .. ..	1.96	2.66	
Schools .. ..	1.17	.98	
Police .. ..	.95	1.39	
Army .. ..	.10	.83	
Jails .. ..	.43	.40	
Public Works Department ..	7.20	4.28	
Publications .. ..	.28	.28	
Irrigation Department ..	.42	.37	



	<i>Estimates</i> (in lakhs of Rs.).	<i>Actuals</i> (in lakhs of Rs.).
Survey Department .. ..	·25	·21
Chief Navigation Authority ..	1·22	·99
Government Press .. ..	2·12	2·16
Stationery Department ..	2·67	2·59
Agriculture Department ..	·50	·26
Veterinary Department ..	·36	·46
	<hr/> 42·63	<hr/> 40·70
<b>TOTAL ..</b>	<b>509·97</b>	<b>527·33</b>

## APPENDIX II.

### FINANCIAL YEAR 1924.

#### *Expenditure.*

##### *I. Public Debt.*

1. Debt services ..	35·00	—
2. Pensions .. ..	20·17	17·09
<b>Total ..</b>	<b>55·17</b>	<b>17·09</b>

##### *II. Civil List .. ..*

9·78 9·63

##### *III. Parliament .. ..*

5·00 —

Constituent Assembly 4·25 3·73

##### *III(a). Auditor-General ..*

·58 ·40

##### *IV. Council of Ministers ..*

1·77 1·29

##### *V. Ministry of Finance.*

1. Ministry .. ..	5·29	5·21
2. Accountant-General	4·30	3·81
3. Finance administration in Liwas ..	18·46	16·60
4. Charities .. ..	·97	·68
5. Miscellaneous ..	20·32	17·14

**Total .. 49·34 43·44**

##### *V(a). Customs and Excise ..*

22·36 18·60



	<i>Estimates</i> (in lakhs of Rs.).	<i>Actuals</i> (in lakhs of Rs.).
<i>VI. Ministry of Interior.</i>		
1. Ministry .. .. .	2.28	2.73
2. Administrative Inspectorate .. .. .	6.06	5.43
3. General Administration in Liwas .. .. .	27.49	23.50
4. Jails .. .. .	7.59	6.76
5. Government Press .. .. .	2.03	1.75
6. Government Stationery .. .. .	2.60	2.51
Total .. .. .	48.05	42.68
<i>VI(a). 'Iraq Police.</i>		
1. Administration .. .. .	4.31	3.95
2. Police Services .. .. .	62.51	62.11
3. Special temporary forces .. .. .	3.72	4.37
Total .. .. .	70.54	70.43
<i>VI(b). Health Service.</i>		
1. Headquarters .. .. .	1.21	1.15
2. Hospitals and Dispensaries .. .. .	20.78	18.21
Total .. .. .	21.99	19.36
<i>VI(c). Veterinary and Remounts</i> .. .. .	2.91	2.84
<i>VI(d). Agriculture</i> .. .. .	6.39	6.08
<i>VII. Ministry of Defence.</i>		
1. Ministry .. .. .	8.12	7.72
2. Combatant forces .. .. .	68.15	64.92
3. Miscellaneous .. .. .	41.99	25.10
Total .. .. .	118.26	97.74
<i>VIII. Ministry of Justice.</i>		
1. Ministry .. .. .	2.02	1.86
2. Courts .. .. .	12.48	11.73
Total .. .. .	14.50	13.59
<i>VIII(a). Tapu Department</i> .. .. .	4.83	4.27



	<i>Estimates (in lakhs of Rs.).</i>	<i>Actuals (in lakhs of Rs.).</i>
<i>IX. Ministry of Education.</i>		
1. Ministry .. ..	2.75	2.36
2. Schools .. ..	19.93	18.97
Total ..	22.68	21.33
<i>X. Ministry of Communications and Works.</i>		
1. Ministry .. ..	1.48	1.17
2. Survey Department	6.40	3.83
3. Engineering College	.83	.69
4. Antiquities Department .. ..	.21	.11
Total ..	8.92	5.80
X(a). Public Works .. ..	36.58	32.22
X(b). Irrigation .. ..	36.20	23.77
X(c) Postal and Telegraph Service	35.49	30.58
Total ..	575.59	464.86

#### IV. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.

##### 1. General.

During the year under review the steady increase in the volume of the business of the Courts has been maintained. There has been practically no change in the distribution of Courts shown in the report for 1924, the only alterations being:—

- (a) The opening of three Shar'a Courts of small importance.
- (b) The establishment of the Sulaimaniya Courts of First Instance and Sessions.

The Sulaimaniya Courts were in fact working at the beginning of the year, but under the Political Officer. They have now been brought fully under the Ministry. The judges are Kurds and the records are in Kurdish, translated locally into Arabic before submission to the Court of Cassation.

##### 2. Court of Cassation.

The Organic Law makes occasional mention of a Court of Cassation but not of a Court of Appeal. When the Organic Law came into force there existed a Court of Appeal sitting for the purpose of hearing appeals against those judgments of the Courts of First Instance which are appealable by the Procedure Code. The Court also sat as a Court of Cassation in criminal matters and in civil matters where no appeal lay.



In deference to the Organic Law it was decided to form the Court of Cassation and that was done by the simple process of turning the existing Court of Appeal into a Court of Cassation, and appointing its judges to be judges of the Court of Cassation. The change is in name only and the new Court exercises precisely the same jurisdiction as the old Court of Appeal. During the year the Court dealt with the following cases :—

Revision of judgments of Courts of Sessions ..	442
Revision of judgments in Magistrates' cases ..	96
Revision of judgments in Civil suits (including judgments of Peace Courts) .. .. .	970
Revision of orders made in the execution of judgments .. .. .	107
Civil appeals .. .. .	296

This volume of work, if it is to be done thoroughly, is as much as can be undertaken by the British President and five Iraqi Judges who form the Court. It is proposed to lighten their work by decreasing the number of civil appeals. No appeal now lies in suits below £50 in value and it is proposed to raise this limit, probably to Rs. 3,000. This will mean that a very large proportion of First Instance judgments will be subject to revision only, and not to appeal.

It is also proposed to enlarge the powers of the Court in criminal matters, thereby avoiding the delays caused by the fixed procedure of reference back to the lower Court, if it be considered necessary to vary a judgment.

### 3. Civil Courts of Original Jurisdiction.

The number of cases instituted in the Courts of First Instance was slightly less than in the previous year, 2,981 cases being dealt with, of which 776 were pending at the end of the year, 513 in which summons had been issued, and 263 in which no proceedings had been taken beyond the filing of the plaint. The number of pending cases is far too high and is due to defects in the Civil Procedure Code. Simple cases are delayed for months owing to the time taken in the exchange of pleadings, often unnecessary. Reforms are certain to meet with much opposition, but the revision of the Code must be taken in hand as soon as skilled assistance is available. Among other amendments it is proposed that suits up to Rs. 3,000 in value, now heard by single judges, shall be tried without pleadings, unless they be specially ordered by the judge.

The Peace Courts, on the other hand, have had a busier year and have dealt with 37,903 suits, as against 30,422 in 1924. The increase is most marked in Baghdad where 6,377 cases were



instituted, an increase of 30 per cent. over 1924. The procedure of these Courts is governed by the simple and effective \*Peace Judges Law framed by the Turks and there are no unreasonable delays in the disposal of suits.

#### 4. Religious Courts and the Communities.

The coming into force of the Organic Law brought to the fore two matters introduced into that law at the last moment by the Constituent Assembly. The first is the obligation to appoint Shi'ah and Sunni Qadhis according to the Shi'ah or Sunni majority of the population at the place concerned. There are now very few Shi'ahs who are qualified to sit as Shar'ah judges and they are all appointed to Shi'ah Districts. More Shi'ahs are now trying to overcome their repugnance to law books, other than the Koran, and are entering the Law School, so that the time may be looked for when the Organic Law principle may be fully complied with.

The other matter is freedom of testamentary disposition in the case of Jews and Christians. Those who pressed for the insertion of that provision into the Organic Law, had no clear idea of what they were doing and the complete abolition of statutory heirs and full liberty to disinherit near relations is far from the intention of the non-Moslem communities. No steps have yet been taken to comply with this principle nor has any anxiety been shown for legislation to be prepared.

#### 5. Criminal Courts.

The Courts of Session, in their original jurisdiction, dealt with 471 cases in 1925, as against 435 in 1924. This increase of 36 includes 17 cases heard in Sulaimaniya, a Court excluded from 1924 statistics. 78 cases of murder were tried and 48 cases of unpremeditated homicide, many of which would, in England, be classed as murder. There has been a great deal of highway robbery in the Mosul district and very heavy sentences have been passed by the Mosul Court.

In the appellate jurisdiction, the Courts of Session heard 1,059 cases of appeal against magistrates' decisions, as against 896 in 1924.

This increase in the work makes it imperative to prevent any limitation of the existing jurisdiction of single magistrates. There is a strong feeling among the 'Iraqi lawyers that all "crimes," i.e. offences punishable with a maximum of three years' imprisonment or more, should be tried by Sessions Courts. Were this reform introduced, excellent as it may be in theory, the present staff would not be able to deal with the Sessions list and more judges would have to be appointed.

\* Not printed. It was communicated to the League of Nations with the report for 1923-24.



The Magistrates' Courts have been busier than ever. In 1925, they dealt with 18,152 summary cases, as against 14,663 in 1924, and 4,357 non-summary cases, compared with 3,742. The statistics of the summary cases disclose a great deal of wasted time. Of 21,126 persons charged, only 54 per cent. were convicted, the reason being that a large number of trivial cases are instituted and then withdrawn.

Both the Penal Code and the Criminal Procedure Regulations are now being re-drafted, and, in the case of the latter, a considerable difference of opinion exists as to the necessary reforms. The Iraqi lawyers desire a return to the Turkish system of mustantiqs, i.e. officials appointed by the Ministry of Justice to investigate offences, directing the police in their work. No doubt there may be many instances in which a trained lawyer would know how to prepare a case better than the police officers, who have not yet gained enough experience to be reliable, but in practice the reform is open to objections. Not only does the proposal involve a good deal of extra expense and the fear of friction arising from the division of authority, but it cannot be expected that the mustantiqs would act as quickly as the police, and while much important evidence is now lost owing to delay in taking the statements of wounded men and of witnesses who may be tampered with, it is more than probable that, with mustantiqs in charge of the investigation, more would be lost. The existing system of investigation by police procurators is working reasonably well, and, as the police officers gain more experience, is likely to improve.

#### 6. Court Fees.

There has been a certain agitation, supported by a number of Deputies, against the present scale of Court fees and it may be necessary to adjust them so that small cases in the Peace Courts, say cases under Rs. 20 in value, shall be subject to a smaller minimum than the present fee of Rs. 2½. The fees received in respect of nearly 37,000 Peace Court cases, instituted during the year, average about Rs. 7 per case, and, in view of the large percentage of cases of very small value, this average is decidedly high.

#### 7. Advocates.

In the report for 1924, mention was made of proposals to form a Bar Association. During the year a Royal Irada was issued permitting the formation of such an association, subject to the supervision of the Minister of Justice. It was felt that the ability and experience of all but one or two of the advocates was not such as to justify their being given a free hand in matters of discipline and the Irada therefore provided for the formation of a Disciplinary Committee, composed of Judges and Advocates,



under the Presidency of the President of the Court of Cassation. The Irada has caused great discontent among the advocates, the noisiest of whom insist on complete freedom of action. The more experienced of them do not take up the same extremist attitude, and, as the Ministry is prepared to concede some points, it is probable that a compromise will be arranged without any weakening of the control which Government must exercise in essential matters.

### 8. Legislation.

In July, regulations were enacted to implement the provisions of the Judicial Agreement under the Anglo-Iraq Treaty of the 10th October, 1922, in regard to the composition of Courts for the trial of cases concerning foreigners. This involved no change in the working of the Courts, as a similar procedure, unsupported by any special enactment, had been observed for some years. In one case objection was made to the presence of two British judges on the bench of Appeal, on the ground that the plaintiffs, claiming to be foreigners, were 'Iraqis. The objection was overruled, as the plaintiffs were suing as an English private Company, but it is an indication of the existing antipathy to the Judicial Agreement as being merely a variation of the Capitulations.

Except for this, there has been no legislation affecting the judicial codes and procedure.

The Ministry of Justice is, however, not only concerned with legislation affecting the Courts, but is also required to advise on, and usually to draft completely, the legislative proposals of other Ministries. The task is difficult, as the 'Iraqi lawyers have had no training in the drafting of documents and the Adviser has no British assistant. It is hoped that an extra British judge will be appointed during the coming summer, and will be able to spend a large part of his time in the Ministry on legislative work.

The following laws of general interest were enacted during the year :—

The Judicial Agreement Regulations mentioned above.

The Flax Cultivation Law.

The Medical Practice Law.

Amendments to the Nationality and Passport Laws, and

An amendment to the Organic Law.

The only law of general interest which Parliament was considering at the end of the year was a law defining the rights of corporate bodies, 'Iraqi and foreign, to own land.



## 9. Tapu Department.

### ADMINISTRATION.

The Tapu Department discharges two principal functions :—

- (1) It is concerned with the registration of title, and all transfers, mortgages, etc., required to be registered if the Courts are to take notice of them.
- (2) It is concerned with the protection of Government lands and the prevention of encroachments upon them.

General improvement and progress have been made in the Department in 1925.

An additional Inspector has been appointed for the duty of visiting all the outstation offices and checking the books which had previously not been systematically done. This new appointment has justified itself by bringing to light deficiencies in fees, the result of inaccurate collections and other reasons, amounting to nearly Rs. 10,000/-.

It had been apparent for some time that the size of the Baghdad provincial Tapu area was becoming unwieldy, and in July last a new Tapu province, called the Euphrates Tapu Area or *Mantaqah*, was formed, with headquarters at Hilla, embracing the Hilla, Karbala, Dulaim and Diwaniya Liwas, transferred from the Baghdad Tapu province, within which only the Baghdad, Kut and Diyala Liwas now remain. The whole country is therefore now divided into four Tapu provincial areas with their headquarters at Baghdad, Mosul, Basra and Hilla respectively. The volume of work in the Directorate General has largely increased, but the staff remains the same. The majority of work in connection with Government property, such as the preparation of plans and information of land cases, and sales on *Badal Mithl*\* of Government lands, wrongfully appropriated by private individuals, passes through the hands of the Directorate General. Each case of sale on *Badal Mithl* involves assessment of the value and the preparation of a plan.

Requests for the re-opening of the Tapu Office at Sulaimaniya have been received and the matter is now under consideration. The records have been tampered with under the regime of Shaikh Mahmud and much property has been destroyed. It is only proposed to start work within the town at first and it will be necessary to check and investigate all cases closely before commencing operations.

The position on the Mosul frontier being unsettled, no new offices have been opened, but those already functioning have continued their work without interruption. One or two sub-offices

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\* *Badal Mithl* = First refusal.



in other parts of the country, the retention of which was found to be unnecessary, have been closed and the staff transferred to the Liwa headquarters from which periodical visits will be arranged.

A headquarters Survey Section, under the charge of an 'Iraqi official, has been formed at Baghdad with the object of ultimately providing a central record of the plans of all landed properties. Throughout the country, the Tapu Survey staff consists of one Superintendent, two Inspectors, one Assistant Inspector and 45 Surveyors who are distributed as follows:— 18 in Baghdad Mantaqah, 8 in Euphrates Mantaqah, 9 in Basra Mantaqah and 10 in Mosul Mantaqah. This staff has been concerned chiefly in surveys of areas required for sale transactions and the preparation of detailed measured plans for court cases and departmental purposes. Where possible, certain districts in which there has been much encroachment on Government land or where application for registration is likely have been selected for general survey. The headquarters Inspector has checked and dealt with plans and cases sent up from all parts of the country needing reference to headquarters and for headquarters record.

The Mosul Survey section consisting of partly Tapu and partly Survey Directorate staff, under a superintendent of the Survey Directorate, has completed the survey of 49 villages, comprising 6,271 plots and an area of 170,000 acres in the Liwa of Mosul. In addition, 19 complete villages comprising 129 plots and an area of 60,000 acres have been surveyed and demarcated for registration purposes. The defining of the lands affected by the new railway line from Kifri to Kirkuk has involved the survey of 140,000 acres and the demarcation of 227 plots. Fourteen villages previously surveyed have been demarcated, involving 5,949 plots. 792 inspections for various purposes of an area of 11,000 acres were also carried out.

#### OFFICE PROCEDURE.

Improvement of office procedure is being effected from time to time and this year an important matter has been dealt with in the abolishing of registration of shares under separate deeds and the adoption of the system of carrying out the single registration of the complete property with all the facts and shares contained in one document. The introduction of this new procedure at first gave rise to a certain amount of difficulty, but it is now in force all over the country.

Hitherto the only form of mortgage used has been the kind known as mortgage by "Wakalah Dauriyah," a cumbersome method in which the property is sold on condition, through an irrevocable agent, and much difficulty has always arisen in its administration. Some of the difficulties of the system have been



the production of undisclosed leases and the refusal of the irrevocable agent to sell the mortgaged property on the expiry of the mortgage period. If the mortgagee had arranged to be appointed as the irrevocable agent of the mortgagor, he was not at liberty to bid for the property. Also the debt was not negotiable. A new form of mortgage, legalized under the Turkish regime, in 1328 A.H., has been officially introduced by the department. Under the new form, which closely resembles the English type, if the value of the property is larger than the amount of the first mortgage charge on it, the property may be further mortgaged for other debts, to the second, third or any other degree, and in this case the mortgages of prior degree will have preference over those of later degree. In contradistinction to the old system, the amount of debt remains unaffected by the partial or total destruction of the mortgaged property, while buildings erected or trees planted after the mortgage are considered as forming part of the property and subject to the mortgage. In this form the debt is negotiable and undisclosed leases have no effect on the proceedings for foreclosure. No irrevocable agent is required for the consummation of the sale of the mortgaged property as the Tapu Office is empowered by the law to sell it finally to the highest bidder.

#### DELIMITATION AND INVESTIGATION.

Certain areas have been selected for detailed investigation in the light of the existing title deeds after complete survey and this has involved very careful scrutiny owing to the inaccurate work of the Turkish regime, which was carried out without a survey and in most cases without inspection. Once the investigation is complete, duplicate copies of the survey and lists are kept at headquarters for checking subsequent transactions when sent up for approval and issue of deeds. In areas where the Survey Directorate is undertaking a cadastral survey, mamurs of the Tapu Department have been detailed to accompany the surveyors in order to point out the boundaries of properties and so get them recorded on the maps. During the year this work has been carried out in Mosul, Amara, Basra and Nasiriya Liwas. The failure to adopt this procedure in the survey carried out between Fao and Basra in 1923-24 has given rise to a number of claims and disputes. A survey of the riverain area between Nasiriya and Suq-ash-Shuyukh was undertaken by the Irrigation Directorate during the summer and, with this department co-operating in defining the boundaries of property, a complete investigation and delimitation was carried out. But the best plan appears to be to embark on a policy of gradual settlement throughout the country, more or less on the lines of the Turkish law of February, 1328 A.H., regarding the demarcation and registration of immovable property. The whole purpose of that law as outlined in its first section is to demarcate, register, and assess the value and income of immovable property all over the



country. The necessary machinery set up under the law consists of :—(a) demarcation committees formed of a mamur, a clerk, and an engineer chosen by the Tapu Directorate, with two surveyors as assistants ; (b) registration committees formed of a revenue mamur, a Tapu mamur, a judge empowered to give a decision and (in places where the Ministry of 'Auqaf think it proper) an 'Auqaf mamur. Their assistants will be an engineer and two surveyors. A number of owners of immovable property in the district are added to the committee at the time of the assessment of the value and income of the properties ; (c) A special office, to be called the Survey Office, set up by the Tapu Department for carrying out the demarcation and registration.

An important feature of the law is that it provides that the registration committees should be equipped with quasi-judicial powers to settle disputes whenever they arise after demarcation of boundaries has taken place through the demarcation committees. The parties at variance may agree to accept the registration committee's award as final, if not, the aggrieved party will be given a reasonable time not exceeding 15 days to apply to the Court of Appeal, in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Cases Procedure Law. Provision for fees for registration and survey is also made to cover expenses.

#### STATE DOMAINS.

The subject of State domains is a very important one having regard to its numerous and far-reaching bearings on the economical and administrative requirements of the country. It is one of the Government's main sources of revenue. The Tapu Department is not concerned with the direct management of the estates, it is only concerned with the Government's right of ownership over un-alienated miri lands and escheated urban or arable properties. The position appears to be that all lands, excluding urban mulk (freehold) properties, belong primarily to the State and that good title to such lands can only be obtained in consequence of alienation by Government. This view has been recently borne out by the 'Iraq Courts which have ruled that Haqq Qarar, i.e. acquisition of title to miri lands by long and undisturbed possession, is a legal impossibility in 'Iraq.

The registration of War and Peace Cemeteries for the British Government has been practically completed throughout the whole country and the necessary Royal Irada has been issued for those on Government (miri) land making them into freehold (mulk) of the British Government or of the War Graves Commission, as many of them were found to be on Government land which has been granted free.

#### COURT CASES.

The Tapu Department has had many cases to defend on behalf of the Treasury. Most of those cases have been brought by the Ministry of 'Auqaf in the Shar'a or Mohammedan religious.



law courts. An important difference between the procedure of the Civil Courts and that of the Shar'a Courts is in the payment of Shar'a Court fees after the conclusion of the proceedings, and on the issue of the judgment. These fees are very low compared with the fees charged by the Civil Courts and do not therefore operate as a sufficient deterrent against the bringing of frivolous actions in Shar'a Courts affecting State properties.

#### RECEIPTS AND FEES.

The falling off which has occurred in fees and receipts may be attributed to the decline in value of immovable property which has been going on for the last few years and has now probably reached its limit. The amount of capital invested in the mortgage of properties (with the consequent registration of these transactions) has been less than in previous years owing to the fear that subsequent foreclosure sale price (if the debtor should default) will not reach the amount of the debt. Another factor affecting this form of investment has been the lack of security felt by the investing public as a result of some bad cases in which mortgagees have encountered difficulties with dishonest or insolvent debtors and have been frightened into abandoning their claims. In other cases bidders have not dared to come forward to bid at the auction sales. Early in the year a cry was raised for the grant of a moratorium in respect of mortgage debts. Happily things have been prevented from getting worse by the attitude of Government which has discountenanced the agitation.

The decline in the returns of sales on *Badal Mithl* must be accounted for by the lack of proper co-operation between the authorities concerned, and of proper machinery to deal with it. The mudirs in the Mantaqahs report that much revenue may be derived from the regularisation of these encroachments on Government land, by the collection of their value, in addition to future Tapu fees which would accrue on transactions which might take place subsequent to their purchase from Government. The fact that much property is unregistered naturally deprives Government of the usual Tapu fees as such properties when dealt with are the object of transactions carried out privately outside the Tapu Offices. These transactions are illegal owing to their not being entered in the Tapu registers. It has been suggested that in order to encourage registration the fees payable on the initial registration of property should be waived and registration done free; this was tried by the Turks without success. A cadastral survey and settlement would of course put an end to this state of affairs.

A factor causing much inconvenience and delay is the still undecided question of the limits round town areas within which it is permissible to hold freehold (mulk). This has remained unsettled for five years and is a vital question under the land



law, consequently it is not possible to deal with registrations in many cases which are affected by it. The people desire to have mulk and are not satisfied with a mere possessory title in urban property. As all towns and their environs have been mapped by this Department the matter could be dealt with at once when the limits are officially laid down. This delimitation is provided for to be done under the Turkish law of demarcation and registration referred to above.

#### STAFF.

Proposals have been made for the improved training of officials, as it is found that the work thrown on the four central provincial offices in checking transactions carried out in the Liwas is excessive on account of mistakes made by the mamurs owing to ignorance of laws and regulations with which they should be conversant. As all papers of transactions carried out are sent to the appropriate central office monthly for checking and issue of deeds, control in supervision is kept and transactions do not become final till approved by the central office.

### V. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.

#### 1. General Remarks.

The expansion of the 'Iraq Army' continued steadily during the year under review. The 6th Battalion was brought up to strength and the 5th Battalion became a service unit instead of a recruits' Battalion. Three Infantry Depots were initiated, one for each district, and a Cavalry Depot was formed in Baghdad. The results obtained from these Depots have fully justified their initiation and have produced a marked increase of efficiency throughout the Army. Units are relieved of the strain of endeavouring to train recruits concurrently with the rest of the unit and personnel now leave the Depots fully equipped and trained up to a point where more advanced instructions can be immediately applied. Had a British officer been available for each Depot the benefit derived would have been intensified.

A third Transport Company was raised during the year in order to complete first line transport for all units of the Army.

As a result of recommendations made by the Financial Mission, and in order that a reduction might be made in the Police Force, the 'Iraq Army was in May given responsibility for an extended area of the northern frontier. In order to relieve regular units from finding numerous detached posts, a Frontier Company with an establishment of five officers and 200 rank and file was raised in July. The personnel, composed entirely of ex-Levies or ex-Policemen, were quickly trained and the new formation actually took over the various frontier posts in December.



There has been a marked improvement during the year in the type of 'Iraqi recruit enlisted, both as regards physique and intelligence, and military service under existing conditions is becoming increasingly popular.

The policy of sending 'Iraq Army personnel overseas for special training has been maintained with excellent results. Both in England and in India they have made themselves generally popular with British officers and proved themselves efficient soldiers. Moreover this close association of English and 'Iraqi personnel is valuable as encouraging friendly relations and mutual trust.

Active operations during the year have been almost entirely confined to the Sulaimaniya district. The 'Iraqi has proved himself to be a good fighter. Lack of experience was evidenced in one or two minor incidents, but the spirit to return to the charge was never absent and in many cases individual gallantry was brought to notice. The rank and file are capable of endurance and sustained effort, and the marsh Arab with experience can become as efficient at mountain warfare as the hillman from the north.

The creation of army reserves on the voluntary system, or the introduction of conscription under which a reserve could be built up, has not yet been undertaken and the peace strength of the army at present represents the maximum expansion for war. This is obviously a most unsatisfactory state of affairs should the army be called upon to take part in other than minor operations.

A scheme for the further development and intensified training of the 'Iraq Army was approved by the 'Iraq Government subsequent to the visit to 'Iraq in April of the British Secretaries of State for the Colonies and for Air.

Under this scheme, which provided for increased British personnel and the introduction of certain exemplar units in the 'Iraq Army, to be commanded by British officers, Major-General A. C. Daly, C.B., C.M.G., was appointed Inspector-General and arrived in Baghdad on 7th July. He returned to England on 23rd July for the purpose of selecting British officers and reached Baghdad again on 16th November. Some twenty-five new officers were selected and are at present employed on the staff, and as instructors to units.

The same cordial and friendly relations between British and 'Iraqi officers which have existed since the Army came into existence have been maintained and the atmosphere in which the new scheme is being introduced is a happy augury of success.

## 2. Operations.

During 1925, the garrison of Sulaimaniya has been constantly employed in minor operations against the rebel Kurds of Shaikh Mahmud. The most important engagement was that at Kinaru on



25th June, in which the 2nd 'Iraq Infantry fought extremely well and two of their N.C.O's and also two men of the 'Iraq Medical Corps attached were recommended for awards for gallantry by the British Officer commanding the column. The total casualties during the year were :—

	Officers.	Other Ranks.
Killed .. .. .	2	3
Wounded .. .. .	—	26
Captured .. .. .	—	3
Missing .. .. .	—	5

During July the frontier posts held by the 'Iraq Army in the Zakho district were several times sniped, and the Pirakh Post was attacked.

### 3. Recruiting.

The number of recruits who joined the 'Iraq Army during 1925 was 3,337.

During the year 484 men took their discharge on completion of engagement and 1,187 men, or 71 per cent. re-engaged.

It was found necessary to allot maximum monthly quota to the various recruiting centres as the supply was far in excess of demand. A census of the composition of the 'Iraq Army was taken in the summer and the approximate numbers were as follows :—

Town and Village Arabs .. .. .	2,961
Arab Tribesmen .. .. .	2,457
Kurds .. .. .	1,168
Turcomans .. .. .	586

Since this census, the Frontier Company of a strength of 200 other ranks has been formed, and consists half of Kurds and half of Chaldean and Nestorian Christians.

### 4. Military Education.

#### (a) THE 'IRAQ ARMY TRAINING CENTRE.

The 'Iraq Army Training Centre is commanded by a Muqaddam, assisted by an Adjutant, a Quartermaster and officers in charge of the various branches of instruction. The Centre is under the general supervision for training and administration purposes of a Director, who is a British officer. He is assisted by British officer specialists.

The following courses are held at the Centre :—

Senior officers' course, Junior Commanders' course (which must be passed by all applicants for commissioned rank in the 'Iraq Army), musketry, bayonet-fighting and bombing course, Vickers-gun course, Lewis-gun and revolver course, signalling course, Hotchkiss-gun and revolver course, non-commissioned officers' course.



(b) THE ROYAL 'IRAQ MILITARY COLLEGE.

The Royal 'Iraq Military College for the education of Military Cadets was opened in June, 1924. The Commandant is a Captain (Rais) and he is assisted by the Staff of the 'Iraq Army Training Centre and four 'Iraqi Officer platoon commanders.

Cadets are accepted from the secondary schools, the Law School and other recognized suitable institutions.

Certain cadets, the sons and relations of tribal Shaikhs, are also accepted and given a separate education suited to their standard of knowledge. There are now 30 of these cadets at the Military College, and although their general education is slight, their progress has been most satisfactory.

Altogether, there are now 93 cadets at the Military College, including 53 cadets in their second year, and 37 in their first year. Three cadets have been sent to Sandhurst to take the Cadet Course there and one more cadet is being sent in January, 1926.

So far as local conditions permit, the College is organized and run on the lines of the Royal Military College, Sandhurst.

The results of the examination at the end of the first year were highly satisfactory and showed that the majority of cadets had a thorough knowledge of the subjects which they had been taught.

Football and hockey are played regularly and the Military College teams successfully compete against company sides of the British and Indian regiments stationed in Baghdad. The cadets are keen and show a good sportsmanlike spirit.

The senior cadets receive regular instruction in riding and horse-management under arrangements made by the Officer Commanding the Cavalry School and good progress has been reported.

(c) TRANSLATION.

A number of British Training Manuals were translated during the year.

**5. Training.**

(a) CAVALRY.

During the past years there has been a shortage of competent instructors, and in consequence every effort has been made to secure a nucleus of well-trained 'Iraqi officer instructors and N.C.O. instructors. To this end as many officers and N.C.O.'s as was possible were put through the Cavalry School and Musketry and other courses at the Training Centre, with the result that by the spring of 1925 most regiments had a fair proportion of good instructors.



Full advantage was taken of these officers and N.C.O.'s and where stable conditions prevailed units showed a marked improvement.

#### *Training in Units.*

Owing to the large number of recruits and other causes, the regiments have been unable to reap the full benefit from the period set aside for squadron and regimental training. More musketry has been done this year than in previous years owing to more stable conditions in the 1st and 2nd Cavalry.

The Cavalry School provides two courses yearly for officers and N.C.O.'s, during which a general grounding in Cavalry training is given.

The Cavalry Depot, formed in March, 1925 for training recruits' is now working well. After six months' training at the Depot recruits are posted to units.

Sport has been encouraged in all cavalry officers, polo being compulsory and the improvement in physique and horsemanship of officers is largely due to this cause.

An 'Iraqi officer returned from the long course at the Equitation School, Saugor, in April, and another officer proceeded there in August, 1925.

#### *(b) ARTILLERY.*

Progressive training was carried on throughout the year. Practice showed a very marked advance on last year, both as regards tactics and gunnery. Discipline has also shown a great improvement.

No battery was employed on operations during the year, although two of the pack batteries and the field battery have for the past year been in a fit condition to go on service.

The third pack battery has not yet been equipped with its guns; these are, however, on order.

One artillery officer has been in England during 1925, attached to a British pack battery, but owing to the lack of officers with a good knowledge of English, it has not been possible to arrange for a further artillery officer to be sent to England during 1926.

Two courses, each of three months' duration, have been held during the year for officers. They were conducted on the lines of the gunnery and tactics courses at Larkhill and have proved of the greatest value. The great improvement shown in gunnery can be largely attributed to these courses which were attended by sixteen officers in all. Better and more uniform results are obtained by this method than by instruction in a battery, as officers, being



relieved of the routine work of the battery, can give their whole time to the subjects, while uniformity of training is also ensured. It is hoped to hold further courses of this nature both for officers and non-commissioned officers.

A satisfactory percentage of men have re-engaged during the year and service in the artillery arm appears to be popular.

#### (c) INFANTRY.

Owing to continuous minor operations in Kurdistan and the distribution of infantry in the posts on the northern frontier systematic training has been impeded considerably during the past year. Every battalion has been engaged in operations or has occupied the northern frontier posts at some time during this period. Units have been split up on several occasions thus making close supervision difficult.

There has been considerable improvement in drill during the past year, and steady progress has been made in weapon training, including the use of hand and rifle grenades.

Training in marching and march discipline has been undertaken during the year with satisfactory results. The men proved on service that they could stand constant fatigue and could accomplish quite long marches. Men very seldom fell out even on long marches of 24 hours in the hottest part of the year.

Good progress has been made in signalling. Practical experience in wireless, helio, lamp and flagwork has been possible, and both officers and men have exhibited great keenness.

Experience has been gained in the various methods of intercommunication between aerial and ground forces.

Although there has been very little opportunity this year for organized field training, three battalions have gained more valuable experience by serving under actual war conditions.

Protective duties, picqueting, siting camps, and fire positions, construction of blockhouses, defences, perimeter camps, wiring, supplies of food and ammunition, transport arrangements, loading mules, attack, defence and outpost schemes have been carried out throughout the summer.

Units proved that they could turn out ready for action at very short notice. Intercommunication was excellent.

Recruit Depots were formed at Baghdad, Hilla and Mosul, for the training of Infantry recruits. The maximum number of recruits that each depot can deal with is 500. These are organized into eight platoons of approximately 60 men.

Recruits spend eighteen weeks in the depot, the first two are spent in collecting sufficient recruits together to form a platoon, clothing the men, lectures and demonstrations on wearing kit,



barrack room arrangements, and at the end of the fortnight the number of men collected are formed into a platoon and then start on a sixteen week programme of instruction.

This system has proved very satisfactory. This year recruits have been of a very good type and they have shown great keenness during their recruit training.

#### 6. Strength of Combatant Units on 31st December, 1925.

	Officers.	Other Ranks.
King's Bodyguard .. .. .	6	196
1st 'Iraq Cavalry .. .. .	23	410
2nd 'Iraq Cavalry .. .. .	24	443
3rd 'Iraq Cavalry .. .. .	24	441
Cavalry Depot and Cavalry School ..	11	269
1st Field Battery .. .. .	6	140
1st Pack Battery .. .. .	5	204
2nd Pack Battery .. .. .	5	166
3rd Pack Battery .. .. .	5	147
1st 'Iraq Infantry .. .. .	29	665
2nd 'Iraq Infantry .. .. .	27	654
3rd 'Iraq Infantry .. .. .	28	727
4th 'Iraq Infantry .. .. .	28	614
5th 'Iraq Infantry .. .. .	23	367
6th 'Iraq Infantry .. .. .	28	687
Frontier Company .. .. .	6	193
Military Police Corps .. .. .	5	76
Infantry Depots :—		
Southern Area .. .. .	12	396
Eastern Area .. .. .	13	308
Northern Area .. .. .	10	322
1st Transport Company .. .. .	5	167
2nd Transport Company .. .. .	4	180
3rd Transport Company .. .. .	3	149

#### 7. Ordnance Services.

The regulations for the ordnance services are based on those of the British Army with certain modifications to suit local conditions.

Ordnance repair-shops exist and deal with all minor repairs which are carried out there. Provision of skilled labour has been a difficulty, but the Government of India has consented to allow men to be trained in India, which will eliminate this difficulty in the future.

A British warrant officer of the Royal Army Ordnance Corps was appointed to supervise the workshops and the work in connection with the repair and maintenance of arms; this has resulted in a very marked improvement and economy.



Local tenders are called for in respect of articles of clothing, stores, etc., which it is possible to obtain locally. All other articles, including all arms, ammunition and vehicles, are purchased in the United Kingdom.

In order to facilitate replacement the arms and equipment of the 'Iraq Army are of British pattern.

## VI. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND WORKS.

### 1. Organization and Scope.

The Ministry exercised control over the Departments of Railways, Public Works, Irrigation, Posts and Telegraphs, Surveys, Antiquities and the Baghdad Water Board during the whole period under report and over the School of Engineering up to October, 1925, when the School was transferred to the Ministry of Education, although the representatives of the technical departments of the Ministry of Communications and Works were retained on the School Board.

During the year the Ministry has been compelled to carry out extensive re-organization of the Public Works and Irrigation Departments to meet, as far as possible, the recommendations of the Financial Mission.

The activities of the Department of Surveys have been increased considerably during the period under report.

The following held office as Minister of Communications and Works in 1925 :—

Muzahim Beg El Pachahji.

'Abdul Husain Al Chalabi.

Sabih Beg Nashat (in addition to his duties as Minister of Defence).

Muhammad Amin Zaki Beg (still in office).

### ACTIVITIES.

A convention with the Turkish Petroleum Company was concluded and signed in March, 1925.

A provisional agreement, supplemental to the D'Arcy concession, was concluded in May, 1925, with the Anglo-Persian Oil Company for the exploitation of the oil resources of the Transferred Territories and the transit through 'Iraq of oil won in Persia, but, on re-examination, this agreement was found to contain several ambiguities and other unsatisfactory features, and consequently was annulled. Negotiations for the conclusion of a revised agreement are now proceeding with the Company.

Negotiations with the Baghdad Tramways and Electric Lighting Syndicate regarding the re-adaptation of the Shahbandar concession have been carried out during the period under review, but have not yet reached finality.



## 2. Irrigation Directorate.

### ORGANIZATION.

During the year under review, the following administrative changes in the Department took place :—

- (1) The creation of a Liwa Control Division.
- (2) Amalgamation of the Bunds Division with the Baghdad Division.
- (3) Amalgamation of the Irrigation Survey Division with the existing Survey Directorate.

(1) The object of the new Liwa Control Division is to render technical assistance to the Liwa authorities in districts in which there is at present no representation of the Irrigation Department. The immediate duties of the newly-formed Division are the collection of data and investigation of new irrigation works until such time as it is found expedient to introduce direct irrigation control in these areas.

(2) & (3) These amalgamations were carried out for reasons of economy.

Under the above re-organization, the Department consists of three Divisions:

- (1) *Baghdad Division*.—Comprising a Bunds (Secondary) Division, Ba'quba, Saqlawiya and Yusufiya Sub-Divisions.
- (2) *Euphrates Division*.—Controls Hindiya Barrage, Hilla and Hindiya Sub-Divisions.
- (3) *Liwa Control Division*.—Made up of Basra, 'Amara, Diwaniya and Nasiriya Liwas.

### BUDGET ALLOTMENT.

The Budget allotment for the Department was Rs. 19,42,330 compared with Rs. 31,56,130 for the preceding year.

### FLOODS, WATER SUPPLY, AND CROPS.

The flood of this year was of very short duration, only lasting three days, 12th, 13th and 14th March. The rivers Tigris, Euphrates and Diyala, except for the short flood period, remained abnormally low throughout the year. The maximum and minimum levels of the river Tigris at Baghdad was 1.45 and 0.25.



metres lower than those ever recorded. Owing to the exceptionally low levels of the three rivers, the shortage of water was felt throughout the country. This, coupled with the absence of rain during the winter months, caused serious damage to the crops. The areas which suffered much from the shortage of water were Shamiya and Kut. The former area was assisted as far as possible by an alteration of the Hindiya Barrage rotation programme. Nothing could be done to help the Kut area where it is reported that 75 per cent. of the crop failed. Despite the abnormally low water conditions on the Tigris, excellent crops of rice were grown in the 'Amara area.

#### WORKS.

No major works were undertaken during the year. The activities of the Department were confined to the collection of hydraulic data and general improvement of existing works and canals.

*Hindiya Barrage.*—Repairs to the western bay apron and weir, which could not be completed last year owing to the abnormal flood, were undertaken and completed during July. Practically all works on the Barrage proper including the repairs to the central bay floor and the installation of the remaining Stoney gates were completed by the end of November.

*Baghdad Area.*—The Ibrahim Al 'Ali, a branch of the Saqlawiya Canal, was extended for a length of four kilometres, with distributaries ten kilometres in length. All excavation was carried out by free tribal labour, the labourers being allotted lands on the new distributaries. The additional area brought under command is about 3,705 acres and will provide cultivation for some 250 fallahs. The canal extension opens up an entirely new area which has apparently not been under cultivation for centuries.

*Yusufiya Canal.*—For the first time in the canal's history, complete regulation of all water drawn off by the distributaries is now in operation and cultivators are being taught to use the available supply in the most economical and profitable manner. The total area of winter crop grown on this canal, for the year, was 52,127 acres and that of summer crop, 26,715 acres.

*Drainage.*—Plans and estimates have been prepared for the drainage of a small area on the Saqlawiya Canal. It is understood that funds are to be allotted for the work in the next financial year. It is imperative that drainage works be carried out on certain perennial canals as early as possible, as some areas are being rapidly ruined for want of an efficient drainage system.

#### FLOOD PROTECTION AND MAINTENANCE OF BUNDS.

In December, 1924, a board of engineers assembled to study and discuss the question of the protection of the city of Baghdad.



Various recommendations were made, one of which was the protection of the Ju'aifir Bund by means of Decauville armour. This proposal was agreed to, and the work carried out by contract, at a cost of Rs. 27,010/12/-. Several other protective works were carried out involving a considerable amount of earthwork. The majority of the work was carried out by contract.

Contracts have been awarded for future flood protection works for 1926. The work was begun on the 1st December and the output of work up to date is satisfactory.

### 3. The 'Iraq Railways.

#### GENERAL.

##### *Summary of Results of Working.*

The more important Statistics for the financial year 1924-25 are shewn in Appendix I.

The climatic conditions of the year have been generally favourable. There were no abnormal floods and the hot season was not above average.

The winter, however, was very severe and keen, and long continued frost caused serious delays during construction works, but did not affect the operation of the railway generally.

On the other hand, the rainfall was below the average and the only flood damage to the open line system was on the Baiji-Sharqat section where breaches were caused by an extraordinarily heavy downpour on 8th March, 1925.

Heavy rains were experienced early in November and several minor breaches occurred. One of these resulted in the derailment of a mixed train and considerable damage was done to the goods stock in the front portion of this train. Further heavy rains were experienced late in December and the temporary section of the standard gauge line, viz., from Samarra to Sharqat, and the metre gauge line to Kirkuk were badly breached and had to be closed for a short time.

The only additions to the open line mileage during the year have been the completion of the connection to Ma'qil Port via Muftiya, which forms part of the larger scheme for the entrance to the Port via this line and the elimination of the present Makina Station. The Khan Mahawil-Hindiya Junction chord was completed and the old line from Khan Mahawil to Mufraq was dismantled.

In addition to the ordinary maintenance, more regrading was undertaken between Ur Junction and Makina and some additional



waterways constructed. This work has made good progress and the immunity of this section from wash-outs during the year is largely due to the regrading. The worst grades have now been eased and after next year's programme is completed little more will remain to be done.

The line to Kirkuk which carried public traffic from August was formally handed over as open line from the end of December.

The wagon ferry connecting the northern and southern sections at Baghdad has again given trouble. An extension of two bays to its adjustable approach was effected. But during a sudden rise in the river, on 13th March, 1925, a very heavy scour took place and undermined the trestles. Two trestles showed signs of vertical displacement and considerable anxiety was felt for sometime as to the fate of the structure. Temporary repairs were undertaken and the structure tested under load, when it was decided that it could be used for four-wheeled vehicles only until other arrangements were possible. As soon as no further fear of flood was evident, a temporary approach was constructed further down-stream, to be used while repairs to the adjustable approach were effected. These are now in hand.

The constant trouble involved in maintaining the wagon ferry clearly indicates the necessity for a railway bridge over the Tigris, and this will be even more intensified when the line is carried through to Mosul.

Arrangements with Messrs. Thomas Cook & Sons led to the sale of tourist tickets both in England and in India. Although this traffic was small during the year under review, there is every prospect of it attaining much larger proportions as time goes on. Special arrangements have been made for the comfort of tourists when travelling by rail, and rest houses have been established at Hilla (for Babylon and Kish) and at Ur.

During August the Persian Government removed the restrictions on pilgrim traffic and pilgrims began to arrive in Iraq early in September. Arrangements were made to issue through pilgrim tickets from Kermanshah and Qasr-i-Shirin. This traffic, though satisfactory, has not yet resumed its former proportions.

#### ADMINISTRATION.

The movement of the headquarters of the Stores Department from Makina to Baghdad during the previous year was followed by the opening and operation of the Main General and Loco Stores Depot at Shalchiya. Towards the end of the period under review, the transfer of Loco and Carriage and Wagon Stores from Shu'aiba was also completed. All consignments of new stores are now taken direct into the Shalchiya Stores Depot.



The 'Iraq Government Agency at Bombay came under the control of the Railway administration on 1st April, 1924, the officer in charge being designated "Agent for the 'Iraq Government Railways." Certain work being still carried on for other departments of the 'Iraq Government, a contribution has been made by the latter towards the upkeep of the agency. There has been a substantial reduction in the maintenance cost of this agency during the year.

The workshops at Shu'aiba were closed with effect from 5th July, 1924, and dismantling of the buildings, machinery and plant was taken in hand immediately. Large quantities of materials were transported to the new central workshops at Shalchiya where re-erection was begun. The transfer of the Baghdad West workshops to Shalchiya was completed, but much work yet remains to be done.

Consequent on the transfer of a large number of employees from the southern area to the new central workshops at Shalchiya, re-distribution of the work of the medical branch became necessary, and in February, 1925, the railway medical officer at Makina was transferred to the northern area with headquarters at Baghdad West. This officer is now in charge of sanitation of the whole line and of medical arrangements at Shalchiya and all stations outside Baghdad.

#### CAPITAL EXPENDITURE ON NEW WORKS.

The expenditure on new works has been met mainly from loans obtained from the 'Iraq Government and the balance from surplus of earnings over expenditure on revenue account.

The total expenditure on capital account, excluding customs duty on imported stores amounting to Rs. 1,78,272 for which a grant in aid was received from the Customs Department, was Rs. 31,02,617. Of this, the expenditure on the Kingerban-Kirkuk Construction, for which a loan of Rs. 24 lakhs was obtained from the Government, amounted to Rs. 21,64,855. The balance of Rs. 9,37,762 has been met from :—

	Rs.
1. Government loan for Barbuti Bridge ..	4,00,000
2. Revenue surplus .. .. .	5,37,762

A further sum of Rs. 2,39,240 to meet the cost of completion of capital works in 1925-26 has to be provided from surplus revenues, making the total capital works appropriation Rs. 7,77,002.

The whole of the expenditure relating to the 1924-25 capital works programme having been provided for as shewn above, the balance at credit of the capital account at the close of the year 1923-24 has been transferred to reserve.



Railway liability as to loans on 31st March, 1925, was as under :—

Anglo-Persian Oil Company at 5 per cent.

	Rs.	Rs.
Khanaqin city extension ..		1,23,157
Iraq Government at 6½ per cent.		
Basra city siding No. 2 ...	45,000	33,95,000
Karbala line No. 3 ...	5,50,000	
Kirkuk construction No. 4 ...	24,00,000	
Barbuti bridge No. 5 ...	4,00,000	
Total ...		Rs. 35,18,157

*Completion of works begun in 1923-24.*

The few remaining works necessary on the Karbala line and on the connexion between Hindiya and Khan Mahawil, were completed early in the year.

#### *Kirkuk Line.*

The construction of the extension from Kingerban to Kirkuk was sanctioned in April, 1924. The line was opened to traffic up to Tuz on 27th November, 1924, but was closed again owing to damage by floods on 10th December, 1924, and re-opened on 2nd April, 1925. The first goods train ran to Kirkuk on the 16th August, 1925, and a fortnight later the line was opened for passenger traffic also. Completion of construction works continued and by the end of December, 1925, the line was formally handed over to traffic as open line.

#### *Permanent Bridges.*

The Imam 'Abdullah bridge, comprising six spans of 100 ft. each, was completed and opened to traffic on 7th September, 1924.

The Barbuti bridge, comprising five spans of 100 ft. each and one lifting span of 38 ft., was completed and opened to traffic on 9th August, 1925.

The Khirr Canal bridge, comprising three spans of 105 ft., 60 ft. and 40 ft. respectively, was completed and opened to traffic on 10th December, 1925.

#### *New Workshops (Engineering Department).*

Good progress on the whole was made during the year, but as the Locomotive Department were at the same time vacating Shu'aiba and starting work in Shalchiya, there was some complication, owing to both departments working at the same time in a confined area where the interests of one sometimes clashed with those of the other, but co-operation between the departments permitted these difficulties to be overcome.

#### *Locomotive Department.*

The salient feature of the activities of the Locomotive Carriage and Wagon Department during the year was the concentration



of nearly all maintenance work in the new central workshop at Shalchiya. The new workshops are about two miles north of Baghdad and are close to the main line. The various sections have been laid out to meet the fullest demands of the present time, and are capable of extension to meet any development the future may bring.

*Railway Transit Khan, Baghdad North.*

The railway transit khan, outside North Gate, having proved to be totally inadequate to deal with the greatly increased business following certain alterations in Customs' regulations, it was found necessary to build a new khan at Baghdad North goods yard. This khan, which is considerably larger than the old one, and has been designed to permit of extension should necessity arise, was opened on 26th November, 1924. The receipts from the working of this khan are very satisfactory.

EARNINGS.

The earnings for 1924-25 were approximately 12½ lakhs less than those for the previous year. The main cause for this was the large falling off in military traffic which accounted for 10 lakhs. In public traffic, the failure of the grain crop was the chief cause of the decrease, and this failure led to a general shortage of money in the country.

The comparison of the budgetted figures with actuals is as follows :—

	Budgetted.	Actual.
	Rs.	Rs.
Coaching :—		
Civil Government and Public .. ..	35,70,000	30,79,208
R.A.F. and Military .. ..	7,00,000	5,33,032
Total .. ..	42,70,000	36,12,240
Goods :—		
Civil Government and Public .. ..	51,72,263	48,73,305
R.A.F. and Military .. ..	8,75,000	5,72,837
Total .. ..	60,47,263	54,46,142
Miscellaneous .. ..	3,32,252	5,10,383
Total .. ..	106,49,515	95,68,765

The total number of passengers carried was 602,030, as compared with 498,522 during the previous financial year. The average length of journey per passenger was, however, shorter than in the previous year, chiefly owing to the increase in short distance festival traffic and to the improved service between



Baghdad, Hilla, and Karbala. The falling off in military traffic was larger than had been anticipated and the earnings were little more than half those for the previous year. The restriction on the movement of pilgrims from Persia continued throughout the financial year 1924-25, but there was, however, a small but welcome increase in this class of traffic from India, probably due to difficulties of pilgrimage to Mecca. The ordinary passenger traffic receipts showed an increase of Rs. 75,000 over the previous year.

The tonnage of revenue earning goods carried was 340,496 against 357,525 tons for the previous year. The early months of the year showed disappointing results, but, in spite of the lack of large movements of grain, the position improved very considerably in the later months and by successful canvassing for traffic, the earnings for public goods were eventually only 4 lakhs short of last year. The falling off in military traffic was here again larger than had been anticipated and showed a decrease of 5 lakhs, as compared with 1923-24. 39,662 tons of grain were carried against 126,577 tons during 1923-24, but in spite of this the total tonnage of revenue earning goods carried showed a decrease of 17,000 tons only. A considerably larger tonnage of commodities, other than grain, was carried and this was largely due to the increase of facilities offered for clearance at the Port and for storing at the khan at Baghdad North, also to the better arrangements which were made for through booking to Persia and the reduction of rates between certain competitive points.

The average haul per ton of goods decreased from 194 miles to 153. This decrease was due to the lack of long distance transport of grain.

#### WORKING EXPENSES.

The total working expenses for the financial year 1924-25 was Rs. 85,97,752, as compared with a budgetted figure of Rs. 99,87,216, and with Rs. 100,26,633 the actuals for 1923-24.

The distribution between the various departments was as follows :—

	Actuals. 1924-25.	Budgetted 1924-25.	Per cent. of gross expenses.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Engineering .. ..	16,84,739	20,17,176	19·60
Locomotive and Carriage and Wagon .. ..	36,54,077	43,24,060	42·50
Traffic .. ..	14,84,392	15,85,710	17·26
General .. ..	16,44,554	18,94,845	19·12
Wagon Ferry .. ..	80,086	98,875	·94
Miscellaneous .. ..	49,904	66,550	·58
Total .. ..	85,97,752	99,87,216	100·00



## WORKING OF THE RAILWAYS.

The net surplus of earnings over expenditure was Rs. 9,71,014, the budgetted surplus being Rs. 6,62,299.

The budget, as framed in the early part of 1924, had to be recast during the first quarter of the financial year when it became apparent that the expectations in earnings would not be fulfilled. This was due to falling off of trade and failure of crops and the consequent decreased spending power of the people, also to continued absence of pilgrim traffic from Persia. The accounting of budgetted revenue, expenditure and receipts in previous years had been duplicated for the purpose of showing separately the charges incurred upon, and the income derived from, both the metre and the standard gauge lines. During the past financial year, this system of separate allocations was abolished.

The percentage of working expenses to earnings was 89·9 as compared with 92·6 for 1923-24.

The total train mileage was 623,700, and the total engine mileage was 1,047,761.

The percentage of shunting engine miles to train engine miles was 34·19, against 39 last year.

The earnings per train mile were Rs. 15·34 and the expenses were Rs. 13·79. The cost per train mile shows a decrease of Rs. 2·44 against last year. Future savings in cost per train mile will depend on increase in train mileage, rather than on reduction in expenses.

The average rate charged per ton mile of goods was 1·38 annas and the average rate per passenger mile was 1·03 annas, against 1·46 annas and 0·98 annas for the previous year. The decrease in the goods ton mile rate is due to reduction of rates between competitive points, which secured a larger tonnage on the sections affected. The increase in the passenger rate is due to a larger percentage of upper class passengers having been carried. This latter is due to the development of tourist traffic.

## RAILWAY STORES.

The value of stores in hand, i.e. excluding stores in transit at 31st March, 1925, was Rs. 35,71,936.

Issues during the year totalled Rs. 32,15,892 1a. as follows:—

	Rs.
Capital .. .. .	16,65,166
Revenue .. .. .	15,13,261
Sales .. .. .	37,465



The total purchases during the year amounted to Rs. 32,30,595, viz :—

	Rs.
English purchases .. ..	12,09,783
Indian purchases .. ..	3,11,093
Local purchases :—	
Fuel oil .. ..	8,96,744
Manufactured stores .. ..	1,01,348
Other stores .. ..	7,11,627
	<hr/>
	32,30,595

The amount under English purchases represents the value of executed orders placed direct with the Crown Agents; local purchases include stores manufactured in the workshops, purchases from local firms and oil fuel imported from Persia.

#### RAILWAY STAFF.

The total number of employees serving on 31st March, 1925, was 9,302. Of this total 2,491 were employed on capital works leaving 6,811 employed on the open line. This latter figure compares with 7,239 in 1923-24.

Replacement of imported staff by 'Iraqis has proceeded and the percentage of 'Iraqis employed on the revenue establishment on 31st March, 1925, was 81.6; the percentage of the total staff was 85.9 per cent.

The total cost of personnel for maintenance was Rs. 64,12,664, or approximately 74.54 per cent. of the total expenditure.

Serious efforts have been made to reduce the scales of pay and men are now being obtained on a minimum pay slightly less than that of a year ago. The average cost per man per month has been reduced from Rs. 85 to Rs. 73. The importance of training 'Iraq staff is fully appreciated and this is being done as far as is possible, consistent with economic working. It is hoped to absorb some of the students of the Engineering College who pass their final examination during the course of next year.

#### ACCIDENTS.

There were no serious accidents during the period under review and no passengers were killed by accidents to trains.

The only serious wash-out which occurred during the year was on the standard gauge line between Ain Dibs and Sharqat on the 8th March, 1925, when a great deal of damage was done and a wooden trestle bridge was completely washed away. Pending repairs to this section a temporary station was opened at Tal-al-Bug to provide for traffic to Mosul. The line was not repaired and re-opened for traffic to Sharqat for over two months.

The total number of engine failures during the year was 39 as compared with 53 for the previous year.



## Appendix 1.

## FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL STATEMENTS.

*Financial.*

## 1. Capital Outlay.

1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25
Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
67,31,680	40,65,601	10,30,953	15,38,180	31,02,617

## 2. Revenue earnings and expenses.

	1920-21.	1921-22.	1922-23.	1923-24.	1924-25.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Earnings ..	281,11,929	210,44,526	133,82,457	108,24,463	95,68,765
Expenses ..	354,17,086	251,50,745	130,47,386	100,26,633	85,97,752
	-73,05,157	-41,06,219	+3,35,071	+7,97,830	+9,71,013

*Statistical.*

## 1. Mileage.

Route mileage open on 31st March, 1925.	Track Mileage.	Total.
757·30	Running. 757·30	Siding. 243·86
		1,001·16

## 2. Equipment.

Locomotives in commission :—Metre gauge 59, Standard 12.

Rail Motors :—Tractors metre gauge 8, standard 3.

Coaching Vehicles :—Bogie 55 metre gauge. Standard gauge nil.

4-wheeler 246 metre gauge, 55 standard gauge.

Goods Vehicles :—

	Metre gauge, 1,881	Standard gauge	225
Covered			
Open Bogie	" "	224	" Nil
Open 4-wheelers	" "	611	" 231
Tank Wagons, Bogies	" "	33	" Nil
Tank Wagons, 4-wheelers	" "	211	" 27
Others	" "	59	" 12

## 3. Passenger and Goods Revenue Statistics.

Number of passengers carried	.. .. .	602,030
Passenger miles	.. .. .	47,509,371
Passenger earnings	.. .. .	Rs. 36,12,240
Average Miles per passenger	.. .. .	79
Average rate charged per passenger	.. .. .	Annas 1·03

## Tons of goods carried :—

Revenue earning	.. .. .	340,496
Total	.. .. .	413,586
Net ton miles	.. .. .	63,147,639
Average haul per ton	.. .. .	153 miles
Earnings from goods	.. .. .	Rs. 54,46,142
Average rate charged for one ton of goods	.. .. .	Annas 1·38 per mile



## 4. Revenue earnings and expenses.

Earnings .. .. .	Rs. 95,68,765
Earnings per mean route mile .. .. .	12,634
" " per week .. .. .	243
" " per train mile .. .. .	15.34
Total working expenses .. .. .	85,97,752
" " " per mean route mile .. .. .	11,344
" " " per train mile .. .. .	13.79
Net earnings .. .. .	9,71,013
" " per mean route mile .. .. .	1,278
" " per train mile .. .. .	1.55

## 5. Train and Engine mileage.

Train mileage :—Passenger train 23,021, Goods train, 65,410  
Mixed 530,702, Miscellaneous 4,567 : Total 623,700.

Engine Mileage :—Train Engine, 605,382, Shunting Engine 188,387,  
Light engine 18,611, Other 235,381 : Total 1,047,761.

## 6. Locomotive and rolling stock user :—

Average mileage run per engine per day .. .. .	40.4
Train mileage run per engine per day .. .. .	24
Goods stock vehicle miles.	
Loaded .. .. .	11,254,575
Empty .. .. .	5,944,861
Total .. .. .	17,199,436

Average load per loaded wagon, 6 tons.

## 7. Train load :—

Average gross load of a goods train on the metre gauge .. .. .	490 tons
Average net load of a train .. .. .	220 tons

## 8. Density of traffic :—

Net ton miles per mean route mile per month .. .. .	7,349 tons
Passenger miles per mean route mile per month .. .. .	5,230 tons

## 9. Oil-fuel consumption :—

Pounds per train mile .. .. .	54
Pounds per engine mile .. .. .	32.3

## Appendix 2.

## DETAILS OF EARNINGS AND EXPENDITURE.

1. Earnings.		Rs.
Coaching traffic .. .. .		36,12,240
Goods traffic .. .. .		54,46,142
Telegraph .. .. .		19,791
Carriage of postal mails .. .. .		36,481
Working of Port traffic .. .. .		22,702
Carriage of railway materials .. .. .		2,46,602
Sundry .. .. .		1,84,807
Total .. .. .		95,68,765
2. Expenses.		
Maintenance of way and works .. .. .		16,84,739
Locomotive and carriage and wagon .. .. .		36,54,077
Traffic .. .. .		14,84,392
General .. .. .		16,44,554
Wagon ferry .. .. .		80,086
Special and miscellaneous .. .. .		49,904
Total .. .. .		85,97,752



#### 4. Public Works Department.

##### NEW BUILDINGS.

During 1925 five and a half lakhs have been spent on new buildings.

The most important buildings which have been finished during this period are:—

- Schools at Arbil and Shatra.
- Post and Telegraph Offices at Mosul and Khanaqin.
- Serai at Ba'quba, and Serai and Police Station at Rumaitha, Tuwairij and Shamiya.
- Mounted Police Barracks at Samawa.
- Serai at Yusufiya Nahiya.
- Extensions to Police Station, Baghdad, Girls' Training College, Baghdad, and the Maude Memorial Hospital, Basra.

In addition to the above the following works have been put in hand during the period, but are not completed:—

- Police, Wireless, Customs, and Air Post at Rutba.
- Secondary School at Baghdad.
- Post Office at Arbil.
- Serais and Police Stations at 'Afaj and Chabaish.
- Hospital at Hilla.

The most noteworthy features of the year's building programme are, the continuation of the policy of building schools, the building of Government offices and Police barracks (especially in the Diwaniya area), and the Police, Wireless, Customs and Air Post at Rutba which will encourage the new cross-desert traffic and bring the desert tribes under more effective control.

##### ROADS AND BRIDGES.

Nine lakhs have been spent on the maintenance and construction of roads and bridges. Of this, nearly three lakhs have been spent on the upkeep of floating bridges. The remainder has been spent on the maintenance of roads, replacing defective bridges and new construction.

The most noteworthy features of the programme during the period are:—

- (a) Completion of the Diwaniya-Najaf road by the building of two new floating bridges, one flying ferry, and two large steel bridges.
- (b) Opening of a road from Diwaniya to Rumaitha by building three steel bridges and sixty culverts.
- (c) Completion of the bridging programme on the Hit-'Ana road by the building of Wadi Sahaliyah and Wadi Qasr bridges (96 ft. and 225 ft. spans).



- (d) Replacement of defective timber trestle bridges at Aloka and Bakak Su (Mosul-Zakho road) by steel bridges of 96 ft. and 60 ft. spans.
- (e) Continuation of work of building new bridges and culverts on the Kirkuk-Sulaimaniya road.
- (f) Making new raised road from Baghdad to Khan Nuqtah (Damascus road) and strengthening of Falluja floating bridge to carry heavier loads.
- (g) Minor bridging on the 'Amara-Basra road.

During the period under review, the policy of introducing steel spans into all new bridges has been adopted as being the material most suitable for the country.

Investigations and surveys have been made for a proposed permanent road bridge over the Euphrates at Falluja, and the designs are in the course of preparation.

#### ELECTRICITY AND WATER SUPPLIES.

Nearly half a lakh has been spent on new electricity and water installations. Of these the most important new electric sets and installations for the Civil Hospital at Mosul and for the farm buildings at Rustam.

In addition four lakhs, which were loaned by the Government to the Baghdad Water Board, have been spent on the Baghdad Water Supply Improvement Scheme.

Investigations with a view to providing a new water supply for Najaf are being carried out.

#### REPAIRS TO BUILDINGS.

A sum of two and a half lakhs has been spent on the repair and maintenance of existing buildings.

Generally speaking, the activities of the Department have not materially decreased, in spite of the fact that, in accordance with the recommendations of the Financial Mission, the personnel of the Department have been considerably reduced in numbers.

The total staff of the Department has been reduced from 193 to 103—a reduction of 47 per cent. This has entailed the closing down of the activities of the Department in Hilla, Karbala, Dulaim, Kirkuk, and 'Amara Liwas.

### 5. Survey Department.

#### ORGANIZATION.

The Department consists of a Headquarters Section which includes the Drawing and Photo-Litho Office, and four Survey



Districts for field work. One of these districts, that of Irrigation Survey, was transferred from the Irrigation Department to the Survey Department on 1st July, 1925.

#### BAGHDAD SURVEY DISTRICT.

This district continued to carry out the Cadastral Surveys of the area watered by canals taking off the Diyala River south of the Jabal Hamrin and also of the area north of the Jabal which will be inundated if the Tawila Dam is constructed under the Asfar Concession Scheme.

The scale of survey was 1 : 10,000 and a total of 1,664 square kilometres were surveyed in detail in the year under report. Of this total 104 square kilometres are in the area north of the Jabal Hamrin.

The survey is a detailed one, showing all canals and other water courses, hills and other high ground, silted lands, present, old and abandoned cultivation, village sites, etc.

#### BASRA SURVEY DISTRICT.

The cadastral survey of the 'Amara Liwa was continued and a survey of the rice-growing areas was completed. In September a survey of the date gardens of the former Qurna Liwa (now included in the Basra Liwa) was begun. In addition the surveys already started by the Irrigation Surveys Division were extended in the Delta region below Nasiriya.

#### MOSUL SURVEY DISTRICT.

The number of the personnel in this district is very small. They are employed in doing general surveys for Tapu purposes in the Qadha of Mosul. During the year under report general surveys were carried out in all directions outside Mosul up to a distance of 20 miles of the town. The total area surveyed amounts to 684 square kilometres comprising 6,271 properties.

A survey of all the properties through which the new Kingiban-Kirkuk Railway extension passes was carried out at the request of the Railway Department. The total area surveyed in this connection was 567 square kilometres.

#### IRRIGATION SURVEY DISTRICT

During the year under review the following surveys were completed before this Survey Party was amalgamated with the Survey Directorate, viz. :—

(a) Hussainiya Canal Contour Survey.

(b) The Bedah Canal Contour Survey with longitudinal and Cross Sections of Shatt-Al-Gharaf, Shatt-al-Shattra and Bedah Canal.



- (c) Cadastral Survey of Yusufiya Canal area.
- (d) Riverain survey from Nasiriya to Hammar Lake.

This department on taking over the Irrigation Surveys Division has completed the following work, viz. :—

- (a) A contour survey of some 45,000 acres for the Diyala Plantation Company near Marut Post twelve miles east of Baquba.
- (b) The commencement of a triangulation series running from Musaiyib to Samawa taking in all the lands watered by the Shatt-al-Hilla and the Left Bank of the Euphrates River from the Hindiya Barrage.

#### HEADQUARTERS OFFICE DRAWING OFFICE.

The Drawing Office was principally engaged in completing the fair sheets of the Basra Date Garden area and on drawing traces for the Irrigation Department.

Requisition for maps and plans from departments and individuals were complied with as follows :—

From stock	..	..	..	..	7,472
From press	..	..	..	..	6,001

#### 6. Posts and Telegraphs Department.

The year under review has been one of continuous and steady progress. Every endeavour was made to study the needs of the public and to improve the service, and at the same time the need for effecting economies has been kept in view.

Owing to various adverse circumstances, the revenue for this year was below that of 1924. Expenditure was considerably less than in the previous year, the reduction being approximately nine lakhs. The financial condition of the department continues to show a steady improvement, and it is hoped that, at the end of the financial year, the surplus of revenue over expenditure will be twice that which was earned for the year 1924.

With a view to centralising control, the office of the Superintendent of Post Offices, Baghdad Division, was merged into this Directorate, with effect from the 12th March, 1925, and the Post and Telegraph Offices in Basra were amalgamated with effect from the 24th March, 1925.

#### ESTABLISHMENT.

During the year the number of officials of all classes employed by the department was reduced from 852 to 800.

#### OFFICES.

On 31st December, 1925, there were 77 post and telegraph offices, as compared with 76 at the end of 1924. During the



year under review three new offices were opened to meet the exigencies of the service, and two temporary offices, which were no longer required, were closed.

#### MAIL COMMUNICATIONS.

Mail communication is maintained in Iraq by means of railway, mechanical transport, river, pack animals and runner service over a total distance of 3,701 miles. A great deal was done to speed up the mail service by introducing mechanical transport wherever possible. This resulted in the number of miles covered by mechanical transport being increased by 324, while that covered by pack animals and runner service was reduced by 169 miles. Attempts have also been made to speed up the mail service and to extend the frequency of mail communication between localities wherever practicable and necessary. The Basra-'Ali Gharbi river service was extended to Kut, to link up direct with the Kut-Baghdad motor service. The rail service between Qaraghan and Tuz was also extended to Kirkuk, replacing the motor service between Tuz and Kirkuk. Mails are despatched by railway on what is known as the "weightment system" and by mechanical transport under contractual conditions on fixed subsidies.

During the year numerous requests for motor mail services have been made to the department. Such requests are closely investigated and facilities are refused only when it is clear that to grant them would not be in the public interest.

There were no serious interruptions to the mail service during the year. A minor interruption occurred between Baghdad and Sharqat owing to breaches on the railway line, but there was no actual dislocation of the service, as, with the co-operation of the Royal Air Force, mails for Mosul despatched from Baghdad were conveyed by aeroplane till the normal service was restored.

#### OVERLAND MAIL.

As an experimental measure an additional overland despatch on Tuesdays was instituted from 3rd March, 1925. This extra service had to be discontinued from 7th July, 1925, as, with the advent of summer and incidentally of unfavourable weather, it was found difficult to operate it.

The unsettled conditions in Syria and the insecurity of the route normally traversed, compelled the Nairn Transport Company to divert its convoys carrying the mail to the 'Amman-Jerusalem route. This route is more difficult owing to the bad state of the track, and the time taken on the desert journey is a little longer, necessitating the closure of the outward mail a few hours earlier than before. In spite of the adverse conditions prevailing, overland mails are being regularly despatched and received, a fact which reflects great credit on the personnel of the Nairn Transport Company.



Owing to the flooded condition of the track in the vicinity of 'Amman, the mail, on one occasion in the month of November, failed to connect with the mail steamer at Port Said.

To encourage the transmission of printed and commercial papers, sample packets, etc., by the overland route, a reciprocal overland packet service was established in extension of the existing letter mail service. The overland charge for transmission of mail matter by this service is considerably less than by the letter service. The first outward packet despatch was made on 7th, May 1925, and the first inward packet mail was received from Great Britain on 9th May, 1925. The new service is much appreciated.

#### POSTAL ARTICLES.

The total number of paid postal articles of all kinds, excepting money orders, transmitted during the year is estimated at approximately 6,750,000, as compared with 4,700,000 during the previous year. The increase is chiefly in respect of letters, printed papers and registered articles of the letter mail, and is to be attributed in the case of the first two, to an increase in the posting of correspondence in Arabic and of vernacular newspapers. In regard to the increase in the number of registered articles of the letter mail posted, the increase is largely due to more registered articles being posted for transmission by the overland mail.

There has been a diminution in the number of parcels posted during this year, and the decrease is probably due to the posting of fewer foreign parcels in consequence of the departure from the country of large numbers of foreigners, who chiefly used the service.

Approximately 6,350,000 postal articles of all classes, excepting money orders, were received for delivery during the year, against approximately 5,700,000 during the previous year. The increase is chiefly in the number of unregistered articles of the letter mail.

It is computed that 99 per cent. of the articles received for delivery were actually delivered, and that practically half of the business that passed through the Post Office was in Arabic.

#### DEAD LETTER OFFICE.

The Dead Letter Office dealt with nearly 106,400 articles, of which 64 per cent. were either redirected to the addressees or returned to the senders. The number of unregistered articles of the letter mail that passed into the Dead Letter Office during recent months showed a large increase, in consequence of a great number of unpaid inland letters being consigned to that office by post offices, in compliance with the order prohibiting the transmission of unpaid inland articles.



## MONEY ORDERS.

The total number of money orders of all kinds issued during the year was 48,648, of an aggregate value of over 33 lakhs, as compared with 47,626 and an aggregate value of over 36½ lakhs during the previous year. The decline in value is noticeable in all classes of money orders, and is due to money orders for smaller amounts being issued.

The total number of money orders of all classes received for payment during the year was 24,258, with an aggregate value of over 15·4 lakhs against 19,642 and an aggregate value of 14·6 lakhs received during the previous year. A slight increase in the number of foreign telegraphic money orders received for payment is noticeable.

## COMPLAINTS.

The total number of postal complaints received during the year was 1,506, against a corresponding number of 1,229 during the previous year. The increase in the number of complaints received and dealt with was chiefly in respect of enquiries concerning the disposal of foreign registered letters and money orders, cases of a trivial nature, occasioned by the public omitting to pay for acknowledgments in respect of foreign registered letters and money orders at the time of presentation and subsequently asking for them. The outstanding value payable claims against this administration from India have finally been settled.

## FRAUD.

The number of cases falling under the category of fraud and suspected fraud dealt with during the year was 861, against 689 dealt with during the previous year. The increase in the number of cases is attributable to inexperienced staff. Out of the 861 cases, 545 related to foreign parcels damaged in transit. The other cases related chiefly to misappropriations and losses of cash and stamps belonging to Government and of the value of money orders. The value of money orders misappropriated or lost through the negligence of postal officials amounted to Rs. 150/-, of which sum Rs. 50/- has already been recovered. The balance will be recovered from the official concerned when enquiries in the case are completed.

The misappropriations and losses of cash and stamps belonging to Government amount to Rs. 3224/3/-. A sum of Rs. 1375/6/- has already been recovered from the officials implicated, and it is hoped also to recover a further sum of Rs. 758/6/-. A sum of Rs. 1090/7/- had to be written off as irrecoverable.

The compensation paid by the Department on account of loss and damage to foreign and inland registered articles and parcels amounted to Rs. 382/9/- approximately, against this amount a sum of Rs. 218/- has been realized from either the officials in fault or from the foreign administrations, on whose behalf compensation was paid.



There were four convictions of postal employees during the year.

One case of highway robbery occurred during the year, involving the theft of telegraph "A" message drafts of the Ruwandiz P.O., with stamps amounting to Rs. 113/6/- affixed to them. The case is still under investigation.

Two outstanding fraud cases occurred during the year. One was the embezzlement of a sum exceeding Rs. 800/- from the Kut sub-office by the Sub-Postmaster, and the other, committed by the Sub-Postmaster, Kifri, involved a sum of Rs. 1575. In the first case a conviction was obtained and most of the money recovered, but in the second case the official concerned has so far succeeded in evading arrest.

#### CUSTOMS DUTY.

Customs duty aggregating approximately Rs. 3.20 lakhs was realized during the year on dutiable articles imported through the medium of the Post Office, against approximately Rs. 3.80 lakhs realized during the previous year. The decrease is due to the receipt of fewer foreign parcels on which Customs duty is recoverable. Dutiable articles can now be imported through the letter post, and it is anticipated that as a result there will be an increase in future in the Customs duty collections.

#### BUILDINGS.

A new post office building at Khanaqin was completed and one at Mosul is near completion.

#### PRINCIPAL EVENTS.

The principal events of importance which occurred during the year were :—

- (1) The introduction of inland insurance for letters and parcels.
- (2) The introduction of the sale of British postal orders.
- (3) The introduction of an additional weekly overland letter mail despatch.
- (4) The institution of the overland packet mail service, in extension of the letter mail service.
- (5) The disintegration of the Basra Post and Telegraph Division and creation of a separate Telegraph Sub-Division.
- (6) The extension of the telegraphic money order service between India and 'Iraq to Mosul.
- (7) The extension of the value payable service between India and 'Iraq to Baghdad and Basra Head Post Offices.



- (8) The extension of the money order service to the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, Finland, Lithuania, Hungary and Tanganyika Territory.
- (9) The extension of the parcel post service to Czecho-Slovakia, New Zealand and the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes.
- (10) The resumption of the parcel post service between 'Iraq and offices of the Spanish zone of Morocco.
- (11) The issue of revised instructions for accounting for unpaid and insufficiently paid articles in post offices.
- (12) The revision of the postage rates on parcels addressed to France, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, India, Egypt (including Sudan), and United States of America.
- (13) The re-introduction of the half-yearly departmental examination for appointments to the posts of Deputy and Assistant Postmasters, Inspectors of post offices, and for promotion to appointments the pay of which is Rs. 200/- and above.
- (14) The modification in the treatment of parcels returned by unit post orderlies.
- (15) The prohibition of the transmission through the post of unpaid inland articles of the letter mail.
- (16) The levy of "Internal Redirection Fees" on parcels redirected from one post office to another in 'Iraq.
- (17) The revision in the limits of size of postcards and pattern and sample packets.
- (18) The revision in the postage rates on inland parcels.
- (19) The constitution of the Baghdad Head Office as an additional office of exchange for inward money orders from India.

#### TELEGRAPHS.

At the close of the year under review the total strength of the engineering staff was 166, of whom there were nine British, nine Indian and 148 'Iraqi non-gazetted officials.

The foreign supervising and technical staff has now been considerably reduced, but every effort has been made to keep the service as efficient as possible.

#### ENGINEERING.

The post and wire mileage (telegraph and telephone systems) was increased by 27·36 miles and 167·21 miles respectively, bringing the total line and wire mileage of the Department to 3190·23 miles and 13,586·49 miles respectively.



During the period under review 50·86 miles of posts and 216·06 miles of wire were erected and 84·22 miles of posts with 193·54 miles of wire were dismantled, resulting in a decrease of 33·36 miles in the line mileage, and in an increase of 23·52 miles in the wire mileage of the telegraph lines.

The only big construction and dismantlement works completed by the Department were the construction of a telegraph line from Tuz Khurmatli to Kirkuk, the erection of field service telephone lines from Zakho to frontier posts; the dismantlement of the telegraph lines from Makina to Shu'aiba along the old railway alignment and from Tuz to Kirkuk along the old telegraph route. In addition, there were sundry diversions and reconstructions of telegraph and telephone routes which kept the small construction staff busy throughout the year. Repair and maintenance work was also carried out during the year.

The number of faults decreased by 27 per cent. as compared with the last year. Telegraph traffic was not subject to any abnormal delay, as faults on main lines were of short duration and alternative outlets were available for disposal of traffic.

In addition to minor thefts and damage to lines on various sections, repeated robberies of wire occurred on the Shu'aiba line resulting in a loss of about Rs. 1550/-. The Basra city exchange building doors were forced open on 23rd April, 1924, by thieves, resulting in a loss of material valued at about Rs. 1000/-. The offenders were caught through the assistance of the Police, but no recovery could be effected as the culprits had no belongings. They were sentenced to imprisonment by the Basra Court. In a few cases of minor thefts and damage to lines, recoveries were effected from the culprits.

There have been three cases of fire where damage to lines and instruments was caused and part of the cost of the resulting damage was recovered from those concerned.

#### TELEPHONES.

During the year 66·85 miles of line and 177·59 miles of wire were erected, and 6·13 miles of line and 22·90 miles of wire were dismantled, resulting in a net increase of 60·62 miles and 154·69 miles to exchange and non-exchange telephone line and wire mileage respectively.

At the close of the year there were 752 exchange and 65 non-exchange connexions, as compared with 731 and 45 respectively at the end of the last year.

#### TELEGRAPH WIRES AND INSTRUMENTS RENTED TO RAILWAYS.

During the year, 2,075 miles of wire and 165 instruments were rented to the Railway Administration. The increase in the wire mileage is due to the extension of the railway to Kirkuk.



## WIRELESS.

Reception of wireless traffic at the Central Telegraph Office, Basra, was established on 1st June, 1925, and is working satisfactorily. The distant control is still satisfactory and no breakdown of note has occurred nor has any traffic been abnormally delayed.

At present there are nine 'Iraqis trained in wireless telegraphy, and arrangements are being made for a short course of training in wireless telegraphy for all the signalling staff at the Central Telegraph Office, Basra.

## TRAFFIC.

The volume of traffic handled during the year was 7.5 per cent. below that of last year. This is attributable, to a great extent, to general depression of trade and curtailment of expenditure under this head by Government Departments as a measure of economy.

The number of inland messages booked was 230,704, as compared with 243,032 for the previous year, showing a reduction of 12,328 with an aggregate value of Rs. 509,908/- as against Rs. 530,869/- the previous year. This gives an average charge of Rs. 2/3/4 per message booked, as against Rs. 2/2/11½ per telegram during the previous year.

Foreign telegrams accepted for transmission (excluding radio) during the year were 67,700 with an aggregate value of Rs. 7,21,842/- as compared with 73,039 with a value of Rs. 8,40,235/- during the previous year. This gives an average value of Rs. 10/10/7 per telegram, as compared with Rs. 11/8/8 per telegram during the previous year. The incoming foreign telegrams totalled 79,525 as compared with 73,079 during the last year, showing an increase of 6,486 messages.

The 'Iraq share of revenue during the year on foreign incoming and outgoing messages, excluding radio, was Rs. 1,56,008/-, as against Rs. 1,76,265/- during the previous year.

*Wireless Traffic.*

Traffic by this route has considerably increased. The total revenue being about Rs. 56,770/-, as compared with Rs. 44,142/- for the previous year, showing an increase of about Rs. 12,628/-.

It has been agreed to extend the wireless service to France and Italy via Cairo.

## LATE FEE.

The late fee telegram system was introduced in certain outstation offices, with effect from 1st October, 1924, with a view to prompt disposal of urgent telegrams during the closed hours of offices. A sum of Rs. 5,101 was disbursed to the staff of the offices authorized to accept late fee traffic during the year, as



compared with Rs. 1,360/8/- during the three months of the previous year. No extra departmental expenditure is incurred on this account, as the late fee charges are paid to the staff dealing with such messages.

#### DAILY LETTER TELEGRAM SERVICE.

The daily letter telegram service at ordinary quarter rates via Eastern was introduced between Iraq, India, Great Britain and certain British colonies and possessions, and the United States of America, with effect from 1st November, 1925.

#### LIMITROPHIC AGREEMENT WITH PERSIA.

A limitrophic agreement has been signed with the Persian telegraph administration for the exchange of telegrams between the Persian Government telegraph system and that of the Iraq Government through a frontier office at Kachel-Kachel.

#### GENERAL.

At the close of the year there were 131 offices open for paid public traffic, of this number five are departmental telegraph offices only, 60 combined post and telegraph offices and 66 railway telegraph offices. Of the 60 combined offices, three deal with inland vernacular traffic only, 24 English and vernacular inland traffic and the remainder with all classes of traffic.

The number of telegrams transmitted during the year, was 391,600 as compared with 424,100 for the last year.

Permission was granted to the Port Director to instal and work private wireless telegraph and telephone apparatus in connexion with dredging operations at the bar.

A number of public enquiries have been received regarding the installation of private wireless apparatus for the reception of broadcast matter, and draft conditions for such installations were submitted to the Minister of Communications and Works in June last and are still under consideration.

Arrangements have been made between the Royal Air Force, the General Post Office, London, and this Department, whereby wireless telegraph traffic which involves the use of the General Post Office Abu Zabal Cairo Wireless/T Station may be forwarded and received via the Royal Air Force station in Baghdad during any total failure in the wireless connexion between Basra Radio and Abu Zabal.

### VII. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION.

#### 1. General.

The political events of the year have had little effect on the course of education, and this is perhaps a healthy sign. The visits of the Frontier Commission of the League of Nations and of the Secretaries of State for the Colonies and for Air did not result in any attempt to exploit the schools of the country for the benefit of political parties.



The Cabinet of Yasin Pasha al Hashimi resigned on 25th June, 1925, and Haji 'Abdul Husain Chalabi, since 16th March, 1925, Minister of Education in Yasin Pasha's Cabinet, was transferred to the Ministry of Communications and Works, and was replaced by Hikmat Beg Sulaiman as Minister of Education, but returned to the Ministry of Education on Hikmat Beg's appointment to the Ministry of Interior on 19th July, 1925.

## 2. Finance.

The Budget expenditure on education for the financial year 1924-1925, amounted to Rs. 21,32,000. The report of the Financial Mission recommended that education should be rationed for the succeeding five years at 21½ lakhs. This figure actually represented considerably less than the running expenses of the Ministry at the time the recommendation was made, but increased expenditure on education was eventually sanctioned, and the total actuals for the year 1925-1926 will amount to about Rs. 22,84,000. Those who criticise the educational policy of the country as extravagant, possibly forget that in a new service, such as education, there is bound to be expansion until the point is reached when the country is provided with its complete number of schools, and each of the schools with its complete number of classes. The opening by the Government of a school with one class this year, in the normal course commits the Government to open a second class in that school next year, until the school has reached its full complement of classes.

The 'Iraq are convinced that education is the one thing needed by the country, and that all that is needed is the expenditure of more money on this object. Yet in a country with an advanced form of government and a population largely illiterate, there is a danger of going too fast in education, and it is more important that the money available should be spent on the right things and in the right way than that more money should be spent.

## 3. Training of Teachers.

The Teachers' Training College for primary and elementary teachers now has 307 pupils. In view of the fact that, of the 800 Government primary and elementary teachers, 340 have had little or no training, the number at present in the Training College does not appear excessive. But it is already possible to foresee the time when all the primary and elementary schools will be completely supplied with trained teachers, and no further trained teachers will be required, except for replacing casualties and for staffing a small number of new schools. At the present rate of graduation from the Training College, this time should be reached in six years, and it therefore becomes necessary to consider whether it would not be more expedient to introduce



a progressive diminution in the numbers of the Training College, thus reducing both the annual output of teachers and the annual expenditure on the Training College, while at the same time postponing the day when all the schools will be supplied with trained teachers. The choice between these two expedients presents no difficulty to local opinion, which always prefers to run the engine at full speed until the last possible moment and then to put the brake on hard, to the less spectacular method of shutting off steam and coming to rest as gently as possible. But whichever course be adopted, it should be a recognized aim to substitute for the present four years' course, devoted to producing finished teachers out of raw material that is very raw, a one year's course in pedagogy for which only holders of a full secondary certificate will be qualified.

The supply of teachers for secondary schools, and schools intermediate between primary and secondary schools, is being guaranteed by the Higher Training College. This provides a course for selected teachers, at the end of which they will be qualified for posts in secondary and intermediate schools, as soon as such posts are available.

#### 4. Government Schools.

The total number of primary schools has been increased from 207 a year ago, to 228, the number of teachers from 787 to 877, and the number of pupils from 18,408 to 21,979.

There are now five secondary schools with 562 pupils and 36 teachers. Besides these there is an evening secondary school in Baghdad with 82 pupils, who, having at some earlier period completed their primary course, have been unable for various reasons to attend a day secondary school.

#### *Girls' Schools.*

The improvement in the quality of the girls' schools is perhaps the most marked feature of the year. Much has been due to the appointment in Baghdad of a trained American lady as Principal of the chief girls' school of Baghdad. Trained Syrian teachers have also been posted to Mosul, Basra and 'Amara. Shortage of space and of teachers alone prevent an enormous increase in the attendance of pupils. Special attention has been paid to lessons in hygiene and infant welfare, and also to kindergarten teaching.

There are Teachers' Training classes for school-mistresses at Baghdad and Mosul, and the only thing now required is to make these residential. It is hoped to start a boarding section at the Baghdad Training College, and this will guarantee a supply of trained native schoolmistresses for girls' schools in the provinces.



### 5. Non-Government Schools.

Some success has been achieved in the effort to secure uniformity of standard in denominational schools without undue interference with the educational needs of the different communities. Rs. 40,000 was given by the Government as grants-in-aid to various denominational schools, and the grants were nearly always made conditional on the introduction of changes advocated by the Ministry of Education.

Among denominational schools, the Jewish schools form the largest group. In the past year they have greatly improved. Those of them which are controlled by the Alliance Israélite still make their pupils, during most of their time at school, study four languages at once, and this leaves very little time for any other subjects. French is obligatory because so many of the Alliance teachers are French speaking. But in the schools outside the orbit of the Alliance a more sensible programme is being introduced, to the great advantage of the pupils. There still remain one or two of the old-fashioned Jewish schools where practically nothing but Hebrew and religion are taught under conditions deleterious to the health of the pupils.

The chief disability under which the Jewish schools labour is that, generally speaking, the teachers who can teach know no Arabic, and those who know Arabic cannot teach, and thus much excellent material is wasted. This was a point which at once struck Mr. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, the President of the Anglo-Jewish Association, who visited Iraq in February, 1925. With his help, arrangements have been made for Jewish schoolmasters and schoolmistresses to attend training classes provided free by the Ministry of Education.

There are probably about 300 mulla schools of the old type in the country. Of these, 200 have been inspected in the course of the year. As they take children almost as soon as they are able to walk, they do not really compete seriously with Government schools.

### 6. Technical Education.

Technical education still labours under the old disadvantages. Even intelligent local opinion seems unable to appreciate the importance of skilled workmen and mechanics. They regard a machine in much the same light as they regard a donkey; they hope to get the most they can out of it in the shortest possible time, and then to sell the carcass. They have no notion of prolonging its life by careful handling. It is surprising how long both machines and donkeys survive this treatment, and fail to point the moral which they might be expected to point. But, if the natural resources and the communications of this country are ever to be developed, the time is bound to come when skilled workmen and mechanics will be required. If the present short-sighted policy in technical education is still pursued, the unpopular course of importing skilled labour may have to be adopted.



The demand for technical education is really a demand for inferior trades' schools, which are expected to be self-supporting. If a carpenter working with apprentices in his own shop can make his business pay, there is no difficulty in making a carpentry section in a technical school pay, especially when both the building and the equipment is the property of the Government. But such a school leads nowhere, and is not a legitimate Government enterprise.

There is no place as yet for an Arts and Crafts School.

At present there are about 230 boys in Government technical schools. This includes 30 orphans of various ages who have not really had the necessary general training, and 12 soldiers from the 'Iraq Army who are being trained in the Baghdad Technical School as wireless telegraphists. Much still needs to be done to bring the teaching given at the technical schools into line with the requirements of the technical departments of the Government and commercial firms and companies.

If 'Iraq has any economic future, that future must be in the development of its natural resources. And, in this development, the technical and mechanical posts will be closed to 'Iraqis, unless they prepare for the inevitable demand by passing through a course of technical training.

## 7. Higher Schools.

In the course of the year under review the Engineering School was transferred from the Ministry of Communications and Works to the Ministry of Education. At the same time, a joint committee of the two Ministries was appointed to consider the future of the school. There is every prospect that in the near future, trained local engineers will be needed both for higher and for subordinate posts under the Ministry of Communications and Works. The question to be decided is whether the attempt should be made to train either or both of these categories in the Engineering School. On the whole it is thought that it would be more economical, and probably more satisfactory, to send selected men for their final training to some country with well established courses in civil engineering.

The opening of an Agricultural School in connexion with the Agricultural Institute at Rustam was discouraged by the report of the Financial Mission. But in a country so predominantly agricultural as this, the demand for some sort of agricultural teaching is irresistible, and provision for the opening of the school in September 1926 has been included in the Budget of the ensuing financial year. Some doubts have been expressed whether the results of agricultural research in this country are conclusive enough to form the basis of a course of instruction in a school which must be largely practical. This is a matter which only expert opinion can decide, and expert opinion is unfortunately divided.



The opening of a Medical School is still deferred. The enormous influx of Syrian-trained and foreign doctors into Baghdad has done nothing towards solving the problem of medical attention in the provinces. At the same time it has made the cry for a Medical School less insistent. A townsman trained in a Baghdad Medical School is no more likely than a foreign-trained doctor to accept service outside Baghdad, as long as it is universally held that indigence in the capital is preferable to affluence in a country town.

The Veterinary Department, as long as there is no Baghdad Medical School, has perforce to rely on getting its technical officials trained in India. Fortunately such training is adequate and cheap.

The Law School now admits only graduates of secondary schools, or those who can pass an equivalent examination. As it is one of the few higher schools in the country and has a comprehensive programme of studies, it is attended by many who have no intention of practising as lawyers. It now gives a four years' course and has 136 pupils. These pay fees which make the school almost self-supporting. The teachers are, for the most part, lawyers or officials who give a certain number of lessons weekly.

The Al al Bait University, a really magnificent building under the control of the Ministry of 'Auqaf, is at present occupied by twenty-five theological students, a Principal, eight teachers and two additional teachers only. This small attendance clearly does not justify the high cost of maintenance, and it is hoped that the Ministry will be induced to utilize some part, at least, of the University's surplus accommodation for secular educational purposes.

The Ma'had al 'Ilmi, on the other hand, still shows vitality. This institution was founded in 1922, and was originally intended to provide books and lectures for the *intelligentsia*. Later its activities were transferred to the training of illiterates. Unfortunately, since the last report was written its founders have lost interest in it, and the institution, deprived of the momentum of novelty, has considerably shrunk. Instead of branches in Baghdad and forty other places, with 5,000 pupils, it now has sixteen centres in Baghdad, and six outside, with a total attendance of 1,300. Of these 115 are women. It costs about Rs. 17,000 per annum and this money is provided by subscriptions and State aid.

### 8. Tribal Education.

It cannot be said that anything has yet been done to bring the tribes into any educational system. An educated tribesman seems almost a contradiction in terms, and yet it is difficult to see how, if not by education, the deep cleavage between townsman and tribesman is to be healed. If the way lies through education, the difficult question of ways and means is still a long way from being solved. There are very few tribal centres, and in their



absence an infinite number of small tribal schools would be required. Even then it is doubtful how far the spirit of tribal life is compatible with anything like regular attendance at a school. The solution of establishing tribal primary boarding schools would not meet the case. The tribes would need to be educated up to the idea of boarding schools, and the problem is how to educate the tribes up to this, or, indeed, up to anything that falls outside their established traditions.

### 9. Kurdish Schools.

Another problem, less insoluble perhaps, but more insistent than the tribal schools, is that of education in Kurdish speaking areas. As there were, at the end of 1925, fifteen schools in which the language of instruction is Kurdish, it must be admitted that the Government had already committed itself to the principle of vernacular teaching in Kurdistan, even before the question of Kurdish cultural aspirations was brought into relief by the report of the Frontier Commission of the League of Nations. But within the last month those Kurds who would have been content with primary education in Kurdish, are now pressing for Kurdish Secondary Schools and a Kurdish Training College. This will mean the duplication of institutions already existing in Baghdad, and therefore will involve heavy expenditure. Besides the economic difficulty there is also a serious mechanical difficulty. Kurdish has hitherto been a spoken rather than a written language, and there are practically no Kurdish books. In the early stages of primary education this is not such a serious defect, but something must be done to meet it in the case of secondary schools. And it is not simply the question of translation that is involved. There is before that the question of transliteration which presents serious difficulties.

Possibly the solution of the problem is to be found in the provision of primary education in Kurdish, at the same time making the study of Arabic as a second language obligatory, and increasing it progressively in the higher primary classes, so that a boy who passes out of a Kurdish primary school would be equipped for an Arabic secondary school.

### 10. Fees.

It is a constant source of surprise to those unacquainted with this country that the revenue from school fees is so small. Actually each pupil in the fifth and sixth primary standard is supposed to pay Rs. 15 a year. Exemption on the score of poverty was formerly allowed up to twenty-five per cent. This proportion has now been raised to fifty per cent. Yet it is quite certain that the greater number of parents could well afford to pay what is, after all, a very small sum. In the secondary schools, fees are nominally charged to all pupils. In the Technical School instruction is free. In the Engineering School allowances are paid to pupils, and so also in the Training College. In the Law School students pay.



It is a very heavy burden on a poor country to be obliged to make practically all education free. And in point of fact, as it is the children of the well-to-do townsmen and villagers, rather than the children of the poor cultivators, that chiefly attend schools, there is some justification for the charge made from time to time that the poor are taxed to pay the rich. But there is a deep rooted prejudice here and in other parts of the East that education, or at any rate primary education, ought to be a charge on the State. A ruthless insistence on fees would certainly at first deplete the schools. If persisted in it might in the end overcome the prejudice, and the result would be, not only a saving of money, but still more an invaluable moral gain. For it cannot be too often repeated that what makes the task of the Government, especially of a representative Government, so difficult in this country, is the present absence of any sense of civic duty or of individual obligation to the State. It will take time to create this sense. But it might be worth while to deplete the schools for a few years, if the public could thereby come to realize that the State is not merely an institution devised to provide something for nothing.

Unfortunately, the majority of those responsible for framing the laws, and for enforcing them, are either themselves victims of the popular fallacy, or else lack the moral courage to support a just but unpopular reform.

### 11. Scholarships Abroad.

Failing the establishment of a complete university in 'Iraq, it is still necessary for those who desire higher education in most branches to go abroad for it. A few 'Iraqis have gone to Europe and America for this purpose at their own expense, and about 140 to the American University at Beirut. There are at the moment 14 Government scholars at Beirut University being trained as teachers, one Government scholar studying agriculture in America, two studying medicine, one attending a secondary school, and two studying education in Great Britain. Beirut has the advantage of being cheap and near, and the authorities of the University have granted certain exemptions to those who hold the 'Iraq Government's secondary certificate.

This summer will see the return of the first 'Iraqi graduates of Beirut to take up their duties as schoolmasters in 'Iraq.

### 12. Health Conditions.

All the schools are medically inspected, and the pupils submit to inoculation when necessary. In districts having no medical officer 15,000 quinine pills were issued through the headmaster to the pupils in the course of the school year.



A successful attempt was also made to cope with the bilharzia, which is always rife in the schools of the lower Euphrates and Basra district. By arrangements with the headmasters many children were treated and 300 cured.

### *Physical Training.*

Physical training forms part of the school curriculum, but as taught by 'Iraqi instructors it is too mechanical to do more than tend to improve the physique of the pupils without making for mental or physical agility.

The Boy Scout movement is in danger of lapsing into the same kind of formalism. Without the momentum given by drums, banners and uniform, it is doubtful if it would go on.

### **13. Buildings.**

Very useful progress has been made in the year under review in the construction of school buildings. Ten new schools in all have been put up, four in the northern area, three in the central and three in the southern area. In nearly every case the bulk of the expense has been borne by local subscriptions. The advantage in efficiency and health which results from a school being accommodated in a proper building, instead of a hired dwelling house, can only be fully appreciated by those who know the type of house common in the country towns and villages.

### **14. Conclusion.**

The task allotted to education, in the narrow technical sense of the word, is the task of bridging the chasm between a backward and illiterate population on the one side and an advanced form of Government on the other. This is a difficult enough task in itself, but while reckoning the unfavourable factors, it is better to take account of them all. The racial division between Kurds and Arabs, the geographical between mountain and plain, the religious between Sunni and Shi'ah and the economic and social division between merchant and agriculturist, townsman and tribesman, make a formidable array. Nothing but co-operation in the various activities of Government can defeat them. It is no doubt an encouraging reflection that over 40,000 boys and girls in 'Iraq now attend schools, and that these schools are better every year than they were in the previous year. But there is a kind of education that has nothing to do with going to school and is not limited to one age or class in the community. In a country with a tradition of turbulence and maladministration, five years of peace and settled government, and a reasonable prospect of more to come, ought to give the best of all schoolings in citizenship and common sense.



**GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE PUPILS IN ELEMENTARY  
AND PRIMARY SCHOOLS.**

	Organized Schools.			Mulla Schools Inspected in 1925.	Total.
	State.	Denomi- national.	Total.		
Arbil Liwa .. ..	614	—	614	38	652
Basra Liwa .. ..	2,038	1,889	3,927	890	4,817
Baghdad Liwa .. ..	3,788	9,510	13,298	2,198	15,496
Hilla Liwa .. ..	636	120	756	490	1,246
Dulaim Liwa .. ..	793	—	793	90	883
Diyala Liwa .. ..	1,350	—	1,350	264	1,614
Diwaniya Liwa .. ..	686	—	686	280	966
Sulaimaniya Liwa .. ..	106	—	106	159	265
'Amara Liwa .. ..	1,149	361	1,510	398	1,908
Karbala Liwa .. ..	514	361	875	1,048	1,923
Kirkuk Liwa .. ..	998	—	998	202	1,200
Kut Liwa .. ..	436	—	436	140	576
Muntafiq Liwa .. ..	909	—	909	293	1,202
Mosul Liwa .. ..	6,637	659	7,296	435	7,731
	20,654	12,900	33,554	6,925	40,479

**VIII.—MINISTRY OF AUQAF.**

**1. Administration and Education.**

Administration of Auqaf\* during the period under report followed the lines laid down in previous years.

The educational effort of Auqaf was continued during 1925, and additional sums were devoted to this object in the 1925-26 Budget. The figures for the years 1924 and 1925 are as follows :—

	1924.	1925.
	Rs.	Rs.
Higher Education .. ..	12,800	52,800
Secondary Education .. ..	1,31,115	1,26,566
Elementary Education .. ..	24,041	21,476
Grants-in-Aid to Private Moslem Schools	17,670	26,270

In the budget proposals for 1925-26 a sum of Rs. 40,000 was inserted for the opening of more elementary schools, but Parliament decided to utilize the money by increasing existing and making new grants-in-aid to the private Moslem schools; this decision raised the expenditure on this head from Rs. 1,088 to Rs. 66,300, which is more than the Government grants-in-aid to non-Government schools.

\* Charitable bequests.



It would have been possible to open at least twenty-two elementary schools in Mosques with this money. It is doubtful if the present method of spending the money is as productive of good as these twenty-two elementary schools would be.

## 2. General.

During the year under report, a very considerable economy in administrative expense was effected ; a cadre was approved and almost entirely applied. Its existence has been very useful as a check on the tendency to multiply officials, which is so prevalent in Iraq.

The budget for 1925-26 was prepared in greater detail, and the heads of receipt and expenditure arranged so as to provide the Chamber, the Senate, and the Cabinet with a clearer and more concise notion of Auqaf finances and also to tighten the control on Auqaf expenditure.

The debts which remained during 1924, as a legacy from 1923, were entirely cleared off during 1925, and a determined effort was also made to collect the arrears in revenue. At the end of 1925 Auqaf did not owe any debts, and had reduced the arrears of collection from Rs. 1,408,922 to Rs. 1,039,515.

The bulk of the arrears still outstanding are under consideration by the Chamber of Deputies or in the course of collection through the Courts.

## 3. Ministers.

Shaikh Ibrahim al Haidari, the former Shaikh al Islam at Constantinople, held the portfolio of Auqaf in the Council of Ministers until July, when Yasin Pasha's Cabinet fell. In the new Cabinet formed by 'Abdul Muhsin Beg al Sa'dun, Auqaf was entrusted to Hamdi Beg al Pachakhi, a man with previous administrative experience.

## 4. Revenue and Expenditure.

In approving the budget for 1925-26, the Chamber of Deputies cancelled certain sources of revenues in the Shrine Budget, but did not provide any other source of revenue ; hence repairs and other expenditure will have to wait the provision of new sources of revenue.

The revenue and expenditure for the year were :—

Revenue .. .. .	Rs. 1,925,977/2/-
Expenditure .. .. .	Rs. 1,924,341/10/-



## APPENDIX.

## PROCLAMATION.

## Tribal Criminal and Civil Disputes Regulation (Revised).

## 'IRAQ OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.

Whereas it is expedient to arrange for the speedy settlement of disputes, whether of a Civil or Criminal nature, between tribesmen, in accordance with tribal custom ; it is hereby enacted as follows :—

## PRELIMINARY.

Short title,  
commence-  
ment and  
extent,

1. (i) This Regulation may be called " The Tribal Criminal and Civil Disputes Regulation."
- (ii) It shall come into force at once.
- (iii) It extends to the whole of the territories which are or may hereafter be occupied by His Britannic Majesty's forces in 'Iraq, with the exception of any tracts or portions thereof which the Civil Commissioner, with the approval of the G.O.C.-in-Chief, may, by Notification in the Local Official Gazette, withdraw from the operation of all or any of its provisions.
- (iv) Sections 1 to 5, Section 12, and Sections 26, 27, 31, 32, 33, 35, 38, 39 to 41, and 59 to 62 are of general application, but the remaining Sections may be enforced in whole or part, as the case may be, only against tribesmen as defined in this Regulation.

Definitions.

2. In this Regulation—
  - (a) " Political Officer " means an officer appointed by the G.O.C.-in-Chief to settle tribal affairs within such local limits as may be by the G.O.C.-in-Chief prescribed and includes any Assistant Political Officer, serving under the orders of the Political Officer, appointed by the Political Officer, by order in writing, to exercise all or any of the functions or powers conferred upon Political Officers by this Regulation.
  - (b) " Tribesman " means a member of a generally recognised tribe or tribal section which has been accustomed to settle its disputes by recourse to the arbitration of elders or shaikhs and not by recourse to the Courts of the land as ordinarily constituted.

The decision of the Civil Commissioner on a reference made to him by a Political Officer, whether any person is or is not a " tribesman," shall be final.

- (c) " Majlis " means and includes any chief, shaikh, arbitrator, or body of chiefs, shaikhs or arbitrators nominated and appointed by a Political Officer under the provisions of this Regulation to settle according to Arab tribal usage any dispute in which a tribesman is involved.
- (d) An " Order of reference " is a written order by a Political Officer referring matters in dispute to a " Majlis."
- (e) A " finding " is the reply of the " Majlis " to an " order of reference." When the " Majlis " consists of more than one person, the unanimous opinion of the majority constitutes a " finding." A " finding " must be in writing and signed or sealed by those members of the " Majlis " whose opinion it embodies.

Relation of  
Regulation  
to other  
enactments,

3. (1) The provisions of this Regulation shall take effect in cases to which they apply, notwithstanding any thing in any other enactment, save only proclamations issued by the G.O.C.-in-Chief.



- (2) The powers conferred by this Regulation may be exercised in addition to any powers conferred by or under any other enactment, and, where the contrary is not expressed or implied, other enactments in force in any place, in which all or any of the provisions of this Regulation are for the time being in force, shall, so far as may be, apply to cases dealt with in that place under this Regulation.

## CHAPTER II.

### POWERS OF OFFICERS.

4. (1) When exercising any of the powers of a Political Officer under this Regulation an Assistant Political Officer shall be deemed, for the purposes of this Regulation, to be the Political Officer.  
(2) Every Assistant Political Officer shall exercise his powers in subordination to the Political Officer and in such cases or classes of cases, and within such local limits, as the Political Officer may, by order in writing, direct.

Power of Assistant Political Officers.

5. The Political Officer may withdraw or recall any case which he has made over to an Assistant Political Officer and may dispose of it himself or refer it for disposal to any other officer subordinate to him, duly competent in this behalf.

Powers of Political Officers.

6. When any tribesman is convicted by any Court, or by a Political Officer acting under this Regulation, of an offence punishable, under any law for the time being in force, with imprisonment, he may be sentenced to be whipped in lieu of or in addition to any other penalty to which he may be liable.

Power to pass sentence of whipping in certain cases.

## CHAPTER III.

### PROCEDURE.

7. Where a Political Officer is satisfied that a dispute exists in which either or any of the parties is a tribesman, and is of opinion that the settlement thereof by tribal methods will terminate the dispute and satisfy the parties more effectively than a decision by any Criminal or Civil Court of the land as ordinarily constituted, he may, whether or not criminal or civil proceedings have been begun in any Court as ordinarily constituted, proceed to settle that dispute in the manner provided by this Regulation.

Procedure under the Regulation. When procedure by tribal methods to be employed, instead of Court.

8. (1) If no proceedings have been begun before any Court as ordinarily constituted, the Political Officer shall make an order in writing setting forth the names of the parties, the matters in dispute between them and the grounds on which procedure under this Regulation is desirable, and directing the reference of that dispute to a Majlis, or its settlement upon oath according to tribal custom. Every order directing the reference of a dispute to a Majlis shall state the points on which a finding is required, and direct the Majlis, after hearing the parties, so far as may be practicable, and making such enquiry as it deems necessary, to record a finding thereon. It may also contain directions to the Majlis to advise how, in the event of compensation being awarded to any party, such compensation is to be recovered, or to make any other recommendations on points germane to the matter in dispute. The members of the Majlis shall, in each case, be nominated and appointed by the Political Officer, in the manner hereinafter prescribed.

Procedure in cases not already before any Court.

- (2) If proceedings have already been begun before any Criminal or Civil Court of first instance, as ordinarily constituted, holding jurisdiction within the local limits to which the Political Officer has been appointed under Section 2 (a), the Political Officer before making an order of reference as above, may record in writing a

Procedure on return of finding.

Procedure in cases already before Court.



declaration of the grounds upon which he is satisfied that a dispute exists and that its settlement by tribal methods is desirable, and may forward a copy of that declaration to the Court before which proceedings are pending, calling upon it to stay its proceedings and forward its record of the case to him for his information. On receipt of the copy of such declaration the Court shall thereupon stay its proceedings with respect to all parties, and shall forward the record of its proceedings.

(3) After perusal of the record of the Court's proceedings the Political Officer shall (1) either return the record to the Court with an intimation that procedure under the Regulation is not desirable, or (2) shall inform the Court that he has transferred the case to his own file for disposal under this Regulation.

(4) After making an intimation as in the first part of the preceding sub-section and returning the Court's record, the Political Officer shall have no further power of intervention in the Court's proceedings.

**Procedure in cases outside jurisdiction.**

(5) If in consequence of a dispute an offence has been committed by a tribesman in an area where the Political Officer appointed to deal with the affairs of the tribe to which the offender belongs has no authority, he shall not address the Court holding jurisdiction in that area direct, but shall forward a copy of his declaration to the Civil Commissioner.

(6) The Civil Commissioner may in his discretion present the declaration to the Court or withhold it. If presented, the declaration shall take effect as if the Political Officer by whom it was made were the Political Officer appointed to the area in which the Court holds jurisdiction.

**Procedure under the Regulation.**

(7) If the Political Officer decides to transfer the case to his own file he shall forthwith notify the Court to this effect, and shall make an order of reference to a Majlis or for settlement upon oath according to tribal custom.

**Nomination and appointment of members.**

(8) Where an order of reference to a Majlis has been made, the nomination of the members shall be made in the presence of the parties and either party may object to any person named. All such objections shall be recorded and after consideration by the Political Officer, accepted or rejected. After disposing of such objections, if any, the Political Officer shall appoint the members of the Majlis.

**Proceedings of Majlis.**

(9) When the Majlis has been duly nominated and appointed the Political Officer shall make over to it the record of the case and fix a date for its return, with a finding on the points referred.

**Procedure on return of finding.**

(10) On return of the finding the Political Officer may—

(a) remand the case to the Majlis for a further finding ; or

(b) refer the case to a second Majlis ; or

(c) in a civil dispute, dismiss the claim, and in a criminal dispute, acquit or discharge the accused person, or persons, or any of them ; or

(d) in accordance with the finding, as defined above, in a civil dispute, grant a decree directing the defendant to make any form of compensation specified in the finding, and, in a criminal dispute, convict the accused person or persons or any of them of any offence, of which the facts recorded in the finding show him to be guilty ;

(e) declare further proceedings under this Regulation unnecessary.



(11) In no case shall the Political Officer pass any order adversely affecting any party to the proceedings without examining that party and giving him an opportunity to show cause why such order should not be passed.

9. In any proceeding before any Court of the land as ordinarily constituted, where all or any of the parties are tribesmen, the Court may, of its own motion, notwithstanding all or any limitations imposed by the other provisions of this Regulation, refer the case to the Political Officer having jurisdiction, for consideration whether the case is not one of which the settlement under the provisions of this Regulation is desirable. When making a reference as above the Court shall stay its proceedings with respect to all parties and shall forward the record of its proceedings to the Political Officer. On receipt of the record, after such further enquiry as he thinks fit, the Political Officer, shall act in the manner prescribed in section 8, sub-section (3) above.

10. A decree passed under Section 8 (10) (d), shall not give effect to any finding or part of a finding which in the opinion of the Political Officer is contrary to good conscience or public policy, but shall—

- (a) be a final settlement of the case so far as the decree relates to any matter stated in the reference, although other matters therein stated may remain undisposed of; and
- (b) have, to that extent and subject to the provisions of this Regulation with respect to revision, the same effect as a decree of a Civil Court of ultimate resort and be enforced by the Political Officer in the same manner as a decree of such a Court may be enforced.

11. No Civil or Criminal Court shall take cognisance of any claim or complaint as to the substance of which orders have been passed by a Political Officer under clauses (a), (b), (c), (d), or (e) of section 8, sub-section (10) above :—

Provided (1) that a person discharged under clause (c) shall be liable to be retried for any offence arising out of the same facts at any time up to two years from the date of such discharge, and (2) that cognisance may be taken of any claim or complaint as to the substance of which an order under clause (e) has been passed, if in that order the Political Officer has either referred the parties to a Court as ordinarily constituted, or given them permission to proceed in Court.

12. Where the Political Officer convicts a person under section 8, sub-section 10 (d), he may pass upon him any sentence of fine.

13. (1) Where the Political Officer so convicts a person of an offence punishable with imprisonment by any law for the time being in force, he may sentence the person, in lieu of or in addition to fine to be imprisoned for a term which may extend to seven years, or to be whipped, or to be whipped and imprisoned for a term which may extend to five years; and where he so convicts a person of an offence punishable under the Indian Law with transportation, or with imprisonment for a term exceeding seven years, he may, subject to confirmation by the Civil Commissioner, sentence the person to a term of imprisonment exceeding seven years, but not exceeding fourteen years :—

Provided that a sentence of imprisonment for an offence shall not be for a longer term than is prescribed by the law for the time being in force for such offence.

(2) The Political Officer may direct in his sentence whether it shall be served in or outside the Occupied Territories, and, subject to the provisions of this Regulation with respect to revision, effect shall accordingly be given to such direction.

directions as to payment of fine and imprisonment may be made by the Court, refer case to the Political Officer.

Finality of Decrees.

Further Proceedings barred.

Punishment on conviction after finding of Majlis. Nature of punishment.



Directions as to payment of fine, and imprisonment in default.

14. (1) Where a Political Officer passes any sentence of fine, he may direct that such fine shall be paid, wholly or partly, in cash or in kind, and may fix instalments for its payment.

(2) The Political Officer may further direct that, in default of payment of any fine inflicted by him under this Regulation, the offender shall suffer imprisonment of either description, for a period not exceeding one-fourth of the term of imprisonment which is the maximum fixed for the offence, under any law for the time being in force, if the offence be punishable with imprisonment as well as fine.

(3) If the offence be punishable with fine only, the term of imprisonment, awarded in default of payment of fine shall not exceed the following scale, that is to say for any term not exceeding four months when the amount of the fine shall not exceed fifty rupees, and for any term not exceeding eight months, when the amount shall not exceed one hundred rupees, and for any term not exceeding twelve months in any other case.

Recovery of fines, etc., from relatives of person liable.

15. Where by a decree or sentence passed under the provisions of this Regulation any tribesman becomes liable to pay a fine or compensation the Political Officer may, on the recommendation of the Majlis which tried the case, by order in writing direct that the fine or compensation shall be recovered from the property, moveable or immoveable, of such relatives or fellow tribesmen of the offender, as may be specified in the order.

Time for exercising powers under Regulation.

16. The powers conferred by Section 8 on the Political Officer may be exercised by him with reference to proceedings before any Court of first instance, as ordinarily constituted, at any time before that Court has passed its final order in regard to such proceedings.

Case of persons jointly accused.

17. In a criminal case the powers conferred by Section 8 on the Political Officer may be exercised against, or with reference to, one or some only of two or more persons jointly accused of an offence.

Power to reconsider and set aside orders making or refusing to make reference.

18. The Political Officer may, at any time, reconsider and set aside any order of the Political Officer under this Regulation—

(a) directing reference to a Majlis, or

(b) refusing to make such reference.

Recommendations of Majlis.

19. (1) Where a Majlis, to which a reference has been made under this Regulation, makes any recommendation, to which, if it were a finding on a matter or question referred to a Majlis under this Regulation, effect might be given, the Political Officer may accept that recommendation and in accordance therewith pass any decree or sentence, which he is legally empowered to pass, as if the recommendation were a finding :—

Provided that—

(i) no such decree or sentence shall be passed against any person whose name is not mentioned in the order of reference as one of the parties to the case ;

(ii) no such decree or sentence shall be passed on any recommendation which is not relevant to the matter or question actually referred, whether a recommendation on the point was called for from the Majlis or not ;

(iii) no such decree or sentence shall be passed on any such recommendation against any person who has not had the claim or charge fully explained to him, and has not had an opportunity of entering upon his defence in regard thereto.



(2) The provisions of Section 2 (e) apply to a recommendation in the same way as to a finding.

(3) A decree or sentence passed in accordance with a recommendation shall have the same effect and be enforced in the same manner as a decree or sentence passed in accordance with a finding.

20. In any proceeding under this Regulation, if any person, who is a party or witness, offers to give evidence on oath or solemn affirmation in any form common amongst or held binding by persons of the race or persuasion to which he belongs, and not repugnant to justice or decency, the Political Officer may, after recording the substance of his offer in writing, proceed to cause such oath or solemn affirmation to be tendered to him.

Power to  
tender oaths.

21. If any party to a proceeding under this Regulation offers to be bound by any such oath or solemn affirmation as is mentioned in the preceding section, if such oath or affirmation is made by the other party to, or any witness in, such proceeding, the Political Officer may, if he thinks fit, after recording the substance of his agreement in writing, ask such party or witness, or cause him to be asked, whether or not he will make the oath or affirmation

Offer to be  
bound by  
oath.

Provided that no party or witness shall be compelled to attend personally before the Political Officer solely for the purpose of answering such question.

22. If such party or witness agrees to make such oath or affirmation the Political Officer may, by order in writing, issue a commission to any person to administer it in such form and at such place as the parties require, and authorise him to take the evidence of the person to be sworn or affirmed and return it to the Political Officer. Every such order for the issue of commission shall state the points as to which an oath or solemn affirmation is required.

Issue of  
Commission.  
Time or  
place of  
commission  
necessary to  
obtain  
evidence.

23. The evidence so given shall, as against the person who offered to be bound as aforesaid, be conclusive proof of the matter stated and the Political Officer may pass any decree or sentence, which he is legally empowered to pass, in accordance with such evidence, as if the issue of commission had been an order of reference and as if the report of the commissioner had been a finding.

Effect of  
oath.

24. If the party or witness refuses to make the oath or solemn affirmation referred to in Section 20 to 22, he shall not be compelled to make it, but the Political Officer shall record, as part of the proceedings, the nature of the oath or affirmation proposed, the facts that he was asked whether he would make it, and that he refused it, together with any reason which he may assign for his refusal. The Political Officer may base on such refusal a presumption adverse to the refuser.

Refusal to  
make oath.

25. (1) Where the Political Officer passes, under this chapter, a decree or sentence of fine exceeding two hundred rupees, or of imprisonment for a term exceeding three months, he shall make a record of the facts of the case, of the offence committed, if any, and of his reasons for passing the decree or sentence.

Record of  
Political  
Officer's  
proceedings.

(2) The record shall be made by the Political Officer in English and in his own hand, unless for any sufficient reason he is prevented from so making it, in which case he shall record the reason of his inability and shall cause the record to be made from his dictation in open Court.

26. In proceedings under this chapter the Political Officer may exercise all or any of the powers conferred by any law for the time being in force for the purpose of compelling the attendance, before himself or the Majlis or elsewhere, of the parties and witnesses, or any of them, in any case and at any stage of the proceedings.

Attendance  
of Parties  
and Wit-  
nesses.



## CHAPTER IV.

## PENALTIES.

**Blockade of hostile or unfriendly tribe.**

27. In the event of any tribe, or of any section or members of such tribe, acting in an hostile or unfriendly manner towards the British Government or towards persons residing within the Occupied Territories, the Civil Commissioner with the previous sanction of the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, may by order in writing, direct—

- (a) the seizure, wherever they may be found, of all or any of the members of such tribe and of all or any property belonging to them or any of them ;
- (b) the detention in safe custody of any person or property so seized ; and
- (c) the confiscation of any such property ; and may, with the like sanction, by public proclamation—
- (d) debar all or any members of the tribe from all access into the Occupied Territories ; and
- (e) prohibit all or any persons within the limits of the Occupied Territories from all intercourse or communication of any kind whatsoever, or of any specified kind or kinds, with such tribe or any section or members thereof.

**Fines on communities accessory to crime.**

28. Where there appears to be good reason to believe that the inhabitants of any village or encampment, or part of a village or encampment, have

- (a) connived at, or in any way abetted the commission of an offence ; or
- (b) failed to render all assistance in their power to discover the offenders or to effect their arrest ; or
- (c) connived at the escape of, or harboured, any offender or person suspected of having taken part in the commission of an offence ; or
- (d) combined to suppress material evidence of the commission of an offence.

The Political Officer, with the previous sanction of the Civil Commissioner, may, by order in writing, direct that a fine be levied collectively from the inhabitants of such village or encampment or part of a village or encampment.

**Assessment and recovery of collective fine.**

29. Such fine shall be recovered in such proportions from such houses and in such manner as may be stated in the order and, in default of payment, shall be recoverable as arrears of revenue.

**Forfeiture of communal remissions, allowance, etc.**

30. Where a village or encampment or part of a village or encampment has become liable to fine under Section 28, it shall further be liable to forfeit, in whole or in part and for a term or in perpetuity, any remission of land revenue of which it may be in joint enjoyment, and the members of the village or encampment shall in like manner be liable severally to forfeit any assignment or remission of land revenue or allowance paid out of public funds which they, or any of them, may enjoy.

**Forfeiture of individual allowances.**

31. Where it is shown to the satisfaction of the Political Officer that any person, who is in the enjoyment of an assignment or remission of land revenue or allowance payable out of public funds, has been guilty of a serious offence, or has colluded with or harboured any criminal, or has suppressed material evidence of the commission of any offence, or has failed, on the investigation of any criminal case, to render loyal and proper assistance to



the authorities to the best of his ability, the Political Officer may, in addition to any other penalty to which such person may be liable under any law for the time being in force, direct the forfeiture, in whole or in part, for such term as may be stated in the order, of such assignment or remission of land revenue or allowance, as the case may be.

32. Forfeiture under Section 30 or 31 may be adjudged by order of the Political Officer for a term which may extend to six months, and by order of the Civil Commissioner for any longer term or in perpetuity. **Period of forfeiture.**

33. Where a person is found carrying arms in such manner or in such circumstances as to afford just grounds of suspicion that the arms are being carried by him with intent to use them for an unlawful purpose, and that person has taken precautions to elude observation or evade arrest, or is found after sunset and before sunrise within the limits of any military camp or cantonment or of any municipality, he shall be, with the previous consent of the General or other Officer Commanding the area, where such exists, punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both, and the arms carried by him may be confiscated. **Preparation to commit certain offences.**

34. (1) A married woman who, knowingly and by her own consent, has sexual intercourse with any man who is not her husband, is guilty of the offence of adultery, and shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years, or with fine, or with both. **Adultery.**

(2) Cognisance shall not be taken of an offence under this section unless a complaint has been made by the husband of the woman; or, in his absence, by a person who had care of the woman on his behalf at the time when the offence was committed.

## CHAPTER V.

### PREVENTIVE AND OTHER AUTHORITY AND JURISDICTION.

35. (1) No tower of more than one storey in height, or walled enclosure, shall be constructed without the previous sanction in writing of the Political Officer and no existing tower shall be raised above that height, or be fortified, without the like sanction. **Power to prevent fortification.**

(2) Where the Political Officer is satisfied that any existing tower or walled enclosure is being used, or is likely to be used, for the purpose of defying lawful authority, or of overawing a neighbour, or for the use of force in any way whatever, he shall refer the matter to General Officer Commanding the area, where such exists, who may direct the demolition of such tower or walled enclosure, with or without payment of compensation. **Power to demolish fortified structures.**

36. The Political Officer may, by order in writing, direct that any encampment of tribesmen shall be removed from any place within the area of his jurisdiction and shall be located at such place, within the same area, as the Political Officer shall appoint in his order. **Power to remove encampments.**

37. (1) Where the Political Officer is satisfied that any building is habitually used as a meeting place by robbers, house-breakers, thieves or bad characters, he may, by order in writing, prohibit the owner or occupier thereof from so using such building, and, if the order is not obeyed, may, by a like order, direct that the building be demolished. Such further order shall be without prejudice to any punishment to which the owner or occupier of such building may, under any law for the time being in force, be liable for disobedience of the prohibitory order. **Demolition of buildings used by robbers, etc.**

(2) No person shall be entitled to any compensation in respect of the demolition of any building under Sub-section (1).



**Power to establish system of village watchmen, etc.**

38. The Civil Commissioner may establish a system of village-watchmen or municipal watchmen in any place in the area in which this Regulation has force, and may make rules to provide for the following matters namely :—

- (a) the definition of the limits of watchmen's beats ;
- (b) the determination of the several grades of watchmen, and the number of each grade to be appointed to each beat ;
- (c) the appointment, suspension, dismissal and resignation of watchmen of each grade ;
- (d) the equipment and discipline of, and the control and supervision over, such watchmen ;
- (e) the conferring upon them, and the exercise by them, of any powers, and the enjoyment by them of any protection or privilege, which may be exercised and enjoyed by a police-officer under any law for the time being in force ;
- (f) the performance by them of such duties relating to police, sanitation or statistics or for the benefit of the village-communities or municipalities within their respective beats, as the Civil Commissioner thinks fit ;
- (g) the exercise of authority over, and the rendering of aid to, such watchmen by headmen of the villages or members of the municipal committees of the towns comprised in their respective beats ;
- (h) the performance, in any village or municipality, where the system of village or municipal watchmen has been established, under the direction of the headmen of such village or town, by any of the male inhabitants of such village or town, of any of the duties of a village-watchman, in aid of or substitution for such watchman ;
- (i) the exercise, by such village-headmen for the purposes referred to in clauses (g) and (h), or by members of municipal committees for the purposes referred to in clause (g), of any of the powers, and the enjoyment by such headmen or members of any privilege or protection, of a village-watchman or a municipal watchman, as the case may be ;
- (j) the determination of the rate at which, and the mode in which, watchmen shall be paid, and, in the case of village-watchmen, of the mode in which their pay, the expenses of their equipment, and other charges connected with the village-watchman system shall be provided for, whether out of cesses or funds already leviable or available in the villages comprised in the beat, or by a special tax in money or kind to be imposed on any class of persons residing or owning property in, or resorting to, such villages, or partly in one of these ways and partly in the other ;
- (k) the collection with or without the aid of the village-headmen and by any process available for the realization of the land revenue of any tax imposed under clause (j) and the application of, and the mode of accounting for, the same ; and,
- (l) generally, the efficient working of the system of village-watchmen or municipal watchmen ;

Provided first, that the rules to be made regarding the appointment of village-watchmen shall allow to the headmen of the villages comprised in the beat to which such a watchman is to be appointed, a power of nomination, to be exercised in such a manner and subject to such reasonable conditions as may be prescribed by such rules ; and



Provided, secondly, that the rules to be made under clause (j) with regard to village-watchmen shall include provisions for recording and securing due consideration of the views and opinions on the matters therein referred to of the headmen of the villages comprised in each beat.

39. (1) Where in any village the system of village-watchmen has been established, and the village community or any part thereof fails to provide for the due performance of such service, or any member of the village community fails to perform his duty of watch and ward according to the customary rotation or the direction of the village headmen, the Political Officer may impose a fine, which may extend to five hundred rupees in any case, upon the village community or part or member thereof so failing as aforesaid.

Power to fine village for defective watch and ward.

(2) The provisions of Section 29 shall be applicable to the recovery of fines imposed on any village community or part thereof under this section.

40. Where, in the opinion of the Political Officer, any person is—

(a) a dangerous character; or

(b) belongs to a wandering tribe and has no ostensible means of subsistence, or cannot give a satisfactory account of himself; or

(c) has a blood-feud; or

(d) has occasioned cause of quarrel likely to lead to bloodshed;

the Political Officer may, by order in writing, require him to reside beyond the limits of the territories to which this regulation extends, or at such place within the said territories as may be specified in the order;

Power to require persons to remove in certain cases.

Provided that, if the person has a fixed habitation in the place which the Political Officer requires him to leave, an order under this section shall not be made without the previous sanction of the Civil Commissioner.

41. Whoever contravenes the provisions of Section 35, Sub-section (1) or (2) or an order under Section 36, or a prohibition under Section 36, or a requisition under Section 40, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, and shall also be liable to fine which may extend to one thousand rupees.

Penalty for breach of certain orders.

42. In any place in which all or any of the provisions of this Regulation are for the time being in force—

(i) any private person may, without an order from a Magistrate and without a warrant, arrest or cause to be arrested, and make over or cause to be made over to a police-officer, or take or cause to be taken to the nearest police-station, any person who has been concerned in any offence punishable under any law in force with one year's imprisonment or upwards, or against whom a reasonable complaint has been made, or creditable information has been received, or a reasonable suspicion exists, of his having been so concerned; and

(ii) in making an arrest a police-officer or other person making the same shall make the arrest in the manner prescribed by any law for the time being in force, and may use such degree of force to effect arrest as is permitted by that law, provided that, in cases where the person to be arrested is a tribesman, the police-officer or other person making the arrest, may, if the arrest cannot otherwise be effected, cause the death of the person to be arrested,

Arrest without warrant by police officer or other persons.

(a) if he is committing or attempting to commit an offence, or resisting or evading arrest, in such circumstances as to afford reasonable grounds for believing that he intends to use arms to effect his purpose; and



- (b) if a hue and cry has been raised against him of his having been concerned in any such offence as is specified in clause (a) or of his committing or attempting to commit an offence, or resisting or evading arrest, in such circumstances as are referred to in the said clause.

**Security for the prevention of murder, etc.**

43. (1) Where the Political Officer is of opinion that it is necessary for the purpose of preventing murder, or culpable homicide not amounting to murder, or the dissemination of sedition, to require a person to execute a bond for good behaviour or for keeping the peace, as the case may be, he may order the person to execute a bond, with or without securities, for his good behaviour or for keeping the peace, as the case may be, during such period, not exceeding three years, as the Political Officer may fix.

- (2) An order under Sub-section (1) may be passed—

- (a) on the recommendation of a Majlis or  
(b) after inquiry as hereinafter provided.

- (3) Where the Political Officer makes an order under sub-section (1) on the recommendation of a Majlis, he shall record his reasons for acting on the recommendation.

- (4) Where the Political Officer is of opinion that sufficient grounds exist for making an order under Sub-section (1), he may, either in lieu of or in addition to such order, by order in writing, direct that the person concerned shall notify his residence and any change of residence, during such term not exceeding three years as may be specified in the order.

**Security from families or factions.**

44. Where a blood-feud or other cause of quarrel likely to lead to bloodshed exists, or, in the opinion of the Political Officer, is likely to arise, between two families or factions, the Political Officer may, on the recommendation of a Majlis or, after inquiry as hereinafter provided, order all or any of the members of both families or factions or of either family or faction to execute a bond, with or without sureties, for their good behaviour or for keeping the peace, as the case may be, during such period, not exceeding three years, as he may fix.

**Procedure in inquiry.**

45. (1) An inquiry for the purposes of Section 43, Sub-section (2) or Section 44, may be conducted, so far as may be necessary, out of Court ;

Provided that a person from whom it is proposed to require a bond under Section 43, or the principal members of a family or faction from which it is proposed to require a bond under Section 44, shall be given an opportunity of showing cause in Court why a bond should not be required, and of having his or their witnesses examined there, and of cross-examining any witness not called by himself or themselves, who may testify there to the necessity or otherwise for the execution of a bond.

- (2) When making an order by which any person is required to furnish security under Section 43, or Section 44, the Political Officer shall record his order in writing, with the reasons for making it.

**Breach of bond.**

46. (1) A bond under Section 43 shall be liable to be forfeited if the person bound thereby to be of good behaviour or to keep the peace, as the case may be, commits or attempts to commit, or abets the commission of, any offence punishable with imprisonment.

- (2) A bond executed under Section 44, shall be liable to be forfeited, if the person bound thereby to be of good behaviour or to keep the peace, as the case may be, commits or attempts to commit, or abets the commission of, any offence punishable with imprisonment in respect of any member of the opposite family or faction to which the bond relates.



(3) If while a bond executed under Section 44 is in force, the life of any member of either family or faction is unlawfully taken or attempted, the Political Officer may declare the bond of all or any of the members of the other family or faction and their sureties (if any) to be forfeited, unless it is shown to his satisfaction that the homicide or attempt was not committed by, or in consequence of the abetment of, any member of that family or faction.

47. (1) Where a person ordered to give security under Section 43 or Section 44, does not give security on or before the date on which the period for which the security is to be given commences, he shall be committed to prison, or, if he is already in prison, be detained in prison until that period expires, or until within that period he furnishes the required security.

(2) Imprisonment for failure to give security under this Chapter may be rigorous or simple as the Political Officer requiring the security directs in each case.

48. Where a person has suffered imprisonment for three years for failure to give security under Section 43 or Section 44, he shall be released, and shall not again be required to give security unless a fresh order is passed in accordance with the provision of this Chapter or of any other law for the time being in force.

49. (1) Where a person has, under the provisions of this Chapter, given security or been imprisoned for failure to give security, he may be brought before the Political Officer, if, on the expiry of the period for which security was required to be given, the Political Officer so directs.

(2) Where the Political Officer thinks it necessary, for the purpose of preventing blood-shed, to require security for a further period from any person so brought before him, he shall record a proceeding to that effect.

(3) The proceeding may be founded on the facts on which the original order to give security was founded, and it shall not be necessary to prove any fresh facts to justify an order to give security for a further period under this section; but such an order, if passed, shall have the same effect and be enforced in the same manner as an original order to give security under Section 43 or Section 44.

(4) Notwithstanding anything in this section, no person shall suffer, for failure to give security under this Chapter, continuous imprisonment for more than six years or, without the sanction of the Civil Commissioner, for more than three years.

## CHAPTER VI.

### APPEAL AND REVISION.

50. No appeal shall lie from any decision given, decree or sentence passed, order made, or act done, under any of the provisions of this Regulation.

51. The Civil Commissioner or such officer as the Civil Commissioner may appoint in this behalf may call for the record of any proceeding under this Regulation and revise any decision, decree, sentence or order given, passed or made therein.

52. The Civil Commissioner or such officer as the Civil Commissioner may appoint in this behalf may in the exercise of his revisional jurisdiction exercise any of the powers conferred on an Appellate Court under any law for the time being in force, and may also enhance any sentence;

Imprisonment in default of security.

Length of imprisonment.

Further security.

Appeals barred.

Revision.

Powers in exercise of criminal revisional jurisdiction.



Provided that no sentence shall be passed by the Civil Commissioner or such officer as the Civil Commissioner may appoint in this behalf in the exercise of his revisional jurisdiction which the Political Officer could not have passed under this Regulation.

**Record of reasons.**

53. Where, in the exercise of his revisional jurisdiction in any proceeding under this Regulation, the Civil Commissioner or such officer as the Civil Commissioner may appoint in this behalf, varies or sets aside any decision, decree, sentence or order, he shall record his reasons for so doing.

**Procedure where the decision, etc. to be revised was given by the Civil Commissioner himself as Political Officer.**

54. The Civil Commissioner or such officer as the Civil Commissioner may appoint in this behalf shall not revise any decision, decree, sentence or order given, passed or made by himself in the capacity of Political Officer.

55. Every order made by the Civil Commissioner or such officer as the Civil Commissioner may appoint in this behalf in the exercise of his revisional jurisdiction shall be enforced as if it were an order of the Political Officer, and the Political Officer shall do all acts and things necessary to give effect thereto.

## CHAPTER VII.

### SUPPLEMENTAL PROVISIONS.

**Power of Civil Commissioner to delegate functions.**

56. The Civil Commissioner may by order in writing appoint any officer subordinate to him to exercise on his behalf in any area any or all of the powers conferred upon the Civil Commissioner by this Regulation.

**Disposal of fines.**

57. (1) The Political Officer may make such order as he thinks fit for the disposal of the proceeds of any fine imposed under this Regulation, and subject to any order under Chapter VI made by the Civil Commissioner or such officer as the Civil Commissioner may appoint in this behalf, the proceeds shall be disposed of accordingly.

(2) Where, in pursuance of an order made under Sub-section (1), a person has received compensation for an injury out of the proceeds of a fine, no Civil Court shall take cognisance of a claim to compensation based on the same injury.

**Maintenance of registers.**

58. Registers shall be kept up, in forms to be approved by the Civil Commissioner, of all cases dealt with by the Political Officer and by the Civil Commissioner or such officer as the Civil Commissioner may appoint to exercise powers on his behalf under this Regulation.

**Finality of Proceedings.**

59. Except as therein otherwise provided no decision, decree, sentence or order given, passed or made or act done under this Regulation shall be called in question in, or set aside by, any Civil or Criminal Court.

**Power to make rules.**

60. The Civil Commissioner may make rules to carry out the purposes and objects of this Regulation.

**Protection for persons acting under Regulation.**

61. No suit or other legal proceeding shall lie against any person for anything done, or in good faith intended to be done, under this Regulation.

**Repeal.**

62. The Tribal Criminal and Civil Disputes Regulation (IV of 1916) is hereby repealed.

Made at Baghdad, this 27th day of July, 1918.

H. D. FANSHAW, Major-General,

*Officiating General Officer Commanding-in-Chief,  
Mesopotamian Expeditionary Force.*



### The 'Iraq Passport Law, 1923.\*

WE, KING OF 'IRAQ.

Pursuant to the proposals of the Minister of the Interior and with the concurrence of the Council of Ministers, do hereby order as follows :—

1. This Law may be called the 'Iraq Passport Law, 1923.

It provides for the granting of permits to leave 'Iraq.

1a. In this Law the expression "competent Authority" shall mean the Minister of the Interior or the person duly authorised by him.

2. Subject to the provisions of Section 4, any person desiring to leave 'Iraq, whether by land or sea, must be in possession of a permit to travel or of a passport, visé or endorsed, by the Government of 'Iraq granting him permission to leave the country.

3. Pending the enactment of a law of nationality for the inhabitants of 'Iraq an inhabitant of 'Iraq who is not a foreign subject may obtain a permit to travel in lieu of a passport.

4. A person who is in possession of a passport, which is still valid and was issued or renewed by the Government of the country of which the person to whom it relates is a subject, shall be required only to have his passport visé by the 'Iraq Government or visé by the competent consular authority and endorsed by the 'Iraq Government. A foreign subject who desires the issue or renewal of a passport shall apply to the Consul of his country in 'Iraq for such a passport.

5. (Repealed by amending law).

6. A fee shall be payable for each permit to travel or visa according to the schedule attached hereto, but no fee shall be charged for the endorsement of a passport already visé for the same journey.

The Minister of the Interior shall have power to alter such fees from time to time.

7. (Repealed by amending law).

8. A permit to travel or passport shall be produced on demand to any Passport Officer or other officer duly authorised in that behalf by a person leaving or entering 'Iraq.

9. Nothing in this Law shall apply to :—

- (a) any person whose age is, or appears to the competent authority, to be less than fifteen years ;
- (b) any member of His Britannic Majesty's Naval or Military or Royal Air Forces or of the Royal Indian Marine Service in uniform. Such persons may be required to produce to the Passport Authorities such papers establishing their identity as they may have in their possession.
- (c) any member of the crew of any vessel who has been lawfully engaged as such in any country outside 'Iraq and who leaves 'Iraq in continuation of the same voyage on the same vessel, or any member of the crew of any vessel who has been lawfully engaged in 'Iraq for an overseas voyage who satisfies a competent authority that he is by occupation a seafaring man.
- (d) any *bona fide* Mohammedan pilgrim (Haj or Zair) proceeding on or returning from pilgrimage, except as provided in Section 11 hereafter.

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\*As amended by the 'Iraq Passport (Amendment) Law, 1925.



Regulations may be made by Royal Irada exempting any person or class of persons from all or any of the provisions of this Law and specifying such conditions as may be considered expedient in respect of the grant of such exemption.

10. Any person who :—

- (a) in contravention of this Law endeavours to leave 'Iraq,
  - (b) having been conditionally exempted from any of the provisions of this Law, does any act in contravention of any condition specified in the order of exemption,
  - (c) for the purpose of obtaining a permit to travel or a visa for himself or for any other person, makes a false statement or false representation,
  - (d) otherwise contravenes any of the provisions of this Law or any regulations or rules made under the provisions of Articles 9 and 13 hereof,
- shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months or with a fine not exceeding Rs. 1,500 or with both these penalties, without prejudice to any further prosecution under the Penal Code.

A Passport Officer or other officer duly authorized in that behalf may arrest without a warrant any person against whom a reasonable suspicion exists of his being concerned in an offence punishable under this Law.

11. Pilgrims travelling in organized parties are not required to comply with the provisions of Section 2 hereof, but the leader of the party must possess a pilgrim pass, good for the journey both ways, in which the names of the persons for whom he is responsible are shown. Any member of a party wishing to leave his party should obtain a passport or permit to travel from the competent authority.

12. Tribesmen in their customary areas or vocations entering or leaving 'Iraq by land do not require permits to travel.

13. The Minister of the Interior may, on notification in the *Official Gazette*, make rules for the due execution of this Law and may amend or vary such rules from time to time.

14. The Mesopotamia Passport Rules 1919 are hereby repealed.

15. This Law shall come into force after fifteen days from its publication in the *Government Gazette*.

16. The Acting Minister of Interior and the Minister of Justice are charged with the execution with this Law.

Made at Baghdad this 6th day of June, 1923, and the 20th day of Shawal, 1341.

FAISAL.

Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Interior,

Minister of Justice,

'ABDUL MUHSIN.

NAJI AL SUWAIDI

#### THE SCHEDULE.

Fee on Passport	..	..	..	..	Rs.	10
Fee on Permit to travel	..	..	..	..	Rs.	5
Fee on visa on Passport or Permit	..	..	..	..	Rs.	5



### The 'Iraq Residence Law, 1923.

WE, KING OF 'IRAQ.

Pursuant to the proposals of the Minister of Interior and with the concurrence of the Council of Ministers do hereby order as follows :—

1. This Law may be called the " 'Iraq Residence Law, 1923."

It makes provision for the entry into 'Iraq of persons desiring to reside there permanently or temporarily.

2. The Minister of the Interior may appoint the necessary officials to supervise the entry of persons into 'Iraq. The officials so appointed shall have the power to enter on board any vessel or railway train or aircraft to detain or examine any person desiring to enter 'Iraq and to require the production from such person of any letters, written messages or memoranda or any written or printed matter including plans, photographs or other pictorial representations in his possession.

3. Every person who desires to enter 'Iraq, whether by sea or land or air, must be in possession of a passport or permit to travel and other papers of identity. The photographs of the holder, save in the case of Moslem or other women with similar religious or social prejudices, shall be attached to the passport or permits or papers.

4. Every person resident in 'Iraq at the date of this Law who leaves the country and intends to return, shall obtain in manner prescribed by law, a permit to travel which he shall produce on demand to the Residence officer.

5. No person shall enter 'Iraq except with the leave of the Chief Residence Officer or an officer duly authorized by him. Application for such permission shall not be refused provided the applicant satisfies the following conditions :—

- (a) That he is in possession of a passport or permit to travel issued by the Government of which he is a national and endorsed or visé by an 'Iraq Consul or other official authorized by the 'Iraq Government to grant visas or permits on behalf of the 'Iraq Government.
- (b) That he has in his possession, or is in a position to obtain the means of supporting himself and any dependent who desires to enter with him.
- (c) That he is not a lunatic, idiot or mentally deficient, and that where the applicant is a woman she is not a prostitute.
- (d) That he is not the subject of a certificate given by a Medical Inspector that on Medical grounds to be specified by order from time to time he should not be permitted to enter 'Iraq.
- (e) That he has not been sentenced in a foreign country for any crime for which extradition may be granted.
- (f) That the Minister of the Interior does not object to his entering the country either on the ground that a previous order for deportation has been made against him or because the Minister of the Interior considers, from evidence which appears to him to be sufficient, that he is a person whose presence in 'Iraq would be prejudicial to peace and good order.

6. A Residence Officer or a Medical Inspector may inspect any person seeking to enter 'Iraq and may detain him provisionally.

7. Where leave to enter is refused, the person may be temporarily detained by order of the Residence Officer and while so detained shall be deemed to be in legal custody.



8. The Chief Residence Officer or an Officer duly authorized by him may order that a person arriving on a ship or airship to whom leave to enter is refused shall be removed from 'Iraq by the master or owner of the ship or airship to the country of which he is a national or from which he embarked for 'Iraq.

9. If a person to whom leave to enter 'Iraq has been refused is found anywhere in 'Iraq, he may be arrested and the Chief Residence Officer may take the necessary measures to return such person to the country of which he is a national or from which he embarked, or, in the case of entry by land, to the frontier of the country from which he entered 'Iraq :

10. Any person allowed to enter shall within fifteen days of his arrival register at the Police Headquarters of the district in which he resides the particulars set out in the schedule hereto. The provision shall not apply to persons certified by the Consular visé to be travellers or persons in transit to another country whose stay in 'Iraq will not exceed three months from the date of entry.

In case any person so certified overstays the period he shall register his name immediately at the place in which he is resident and shall apply to the Chief Residence Officer for a permit to stay for a further period in 'Iraq.

11. The Minister of the Interior may make an order in any of the following cases for the deportation of foreigners who have not become subjects of 'Iraq :—

(a) If the Court certifies that he has been sentenced to a term of imprisonment exceeding one month for an offence under this Law, or otherwise, and recommends that an order for deportation should be made in his case.

(b) If any Court certifies that he has been found during a whole year since the date of his last entry into 'Iraq wandering without ostensible means of subsistence, or that he has been sentenced in a foreign country for a crime for which he is liable to be extradited.

(c) If the Minister of the Interior deems it to be in the interests of public order or morals to order the deportation of the person.

A person against whom such an order is made may be expelled from 'Iraq and sent to the country of which he is a national. The order may extend to the dependents of such persons.

The Minister of the Interior may order the application of any money or property of such person in payment of the expenses of the journey and the maintenance until his departure, of himself and his dependents.

A person with respect to whom a deportation order has been made under this Section shall leave 'Iraq in accordance with the order and shall thereafter so long as the order is in force remain out of 'Iraq.

12. If any person acts in contravention of or fails to comply with any of the provisions of this Law or any order or rule made thereunder, or aids or abets in any such contravention, or harbours any person whom he knows or has reasonable ground for believing to have acted in contravention of this Law, he shall be guilty of an offence against this Law.

Further any person shall be guilty of an offence if he,

(a) Refuses to answer any questions reasonably put to him by the Passport Officer or to produce any document in his possession ;

(b) Makes any false return or false statement in any matter concerning this Law ;



- (c) Alters any certificate or copy of a certificate or any entry made in pursuance of this Law ;
- (d) Obstructs or impedes an official in the exercise of his duties ;
- (e) Without lawful authority uses or has in his possession any forged, altered or irregular passport or permit or other document, or any document on which any visa or endorsement has been altered or forged.

Any persons found guilty of an offence under this Law will be liable to a fine not exceeding Rs. 1,500 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding six months, without prejudice to any prosecution to which he may be liable under any other law.

13. Pilgrims travelling in organized parties do not require individual passports, visas or endorsements, but the leader of the party should possess a pilgrim pass on which the names of the persons for whom he is responsible are shown. Nothing in this Section relieves the individual members of a pilgrim party from the liability to pay legal dues on entry ; but pilgrims travelling will be exempted from fee on entry otherwise leviable under Section 5 hereof. Any member of his party who has left his party and is travelling alone must comply with Sub-section (a) of Section 5 hereof.

14. Tribesmen in their customary areas or vocations entering 'Iraq by land do not require permits.

15. Instructions may be issued directing that any person or class of persons shall be exempted wholly or in part and either unconditionally or subject to such conditions as may be imposed in accordance with the provisions of this Law.

Nothing in this Law shall apply to :

- (a) Any duly accredited head of a foreign diplomatic mission or any member of his household or of his official staff, or to any duly accredited Consul de Carrière ;
- (b) Any member of his Britannic Majesty's Military, Naval or Air Forces, or of the Indian Forces in uniform ; but such persons may be required to produce to the Residence Officer such papers establishing their identity as they may have in their possession ;
- (c) Any person who has acquired or shall hereafter acquire 'Iraq nationality in manner to be prescribed by law ;

Provided that nothing herein contained shall exempt such persons from examination and production of documents as set out in Section 2 hereof.

16. The Minister of the Interior, may, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, make rules to regulate the administration of this Law and to ensure the due execution thereof, and may amend such rules from time to time.

17. This Law shall come into force from the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

18. The Acting Minister of Interior and the Minister of Justice are charged with the execution of this Law.

Made at Baghdad this 17th day of June, 1923, and the second day of Dhil Qa'dah, 1341.

FAISAL.

Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Interior

'ABDŪL MUHSIN.

Minister of Justice,

NAJI AL SUWAIDI.



## SCHEDULE OF PARTICULARS TO BE REGISTERED.

1. Surname or family name (IN BLOCK LETTERS).
2. Other names.
3. Date of Birth.
4. Nationality.
5. Nationality of parents.
6. Languages which immigrant can (i) speak (ii) read and (iii) write.
7. Place of birth.
8. Usual place of residence.
9. Occupation (a) past (b) intended.
10. Particulars of dependents, if any, specifying name, age and place of birth.
11. Proposed duration of stay in 'Iraq.
12. Proposed place of residence.
13. Nature of business.
14. Date of entry.
15. Authority for entry.
16. Whether previously resident in 'Iraq.
  - (a) Place of such residence.
  - (b) Dates of such residence.
17. Whether owner of property in 'Iraq.
  - (a) Nature of title to such property.
  - (b) Detailed description and situation of such property.
18. Two photographs of Immigrant.  
(This will not be required in the case of Moslem women or other women with similar religious or social prejudices).

**The 'Iraq Nationality Law.\*****WE, KING OF 'IRAQ.**

Pursuant to the proposals of the Minister of Justice and with the concurrence of the Council of Ministers, do hereby order as follows :—

Article 1. This law shall be called "The 'Iraq Nationality Law."

It prescribes the conditions under which 'Iraq nationality may be acquired and lost.

*Preliminary : Definitions.*

Art. 2. In this law the following expressions shall have the following meanings :—

- (1.) " 'Iraq national " means a person possessing 'Iraq nationality either by birth, naturalisation or otherwise.
- (2.) " Alien " is any person other than an 'Iraq national.
- (3.) " Disability " means the status of being a married woman, or a minor, lunatic or idiot.
- (4.) The age of majority shall be taken to be 18 years calculated according to the Solar calendar in the case of 'Iraqis, and shall be determined, in the case of aliens, by the laws of the State of which they are nationals.

\* As amended by the " 'Iraq Nationality Amendment Law, 1925."



- (5.) The term "habitually resident in 'Iraq'" shall be deemed to include every person who has had his usual place of residence in 'Iraq' since the 23rd day of August, 1921.

Throughout the law the masculine shall include the feminine where there is nothing repugnant thereto in the context.

#### Part I.—'Iraq Nationality.

Art. 3. All persons who on the 6th day of August, 1924, were Ottoman subjects and were habitually resident in 'Iraq' are hereby declared to have ceased to be Ottoman subjects and to have acquired 'Iraq' nationality on that date.

Art. 4. Any person who has become an 'Iraq' national by virtue of article 3 hereof and who has attained his majority on or before the 6th day of August, 1926, may on or before the said 6th day of August, 1926, by written declaration to be made as hereinafter provided, state his option for Turkish nationality. Provided that such person shall not for the purposes of this law be deemed to have ceased to be an 'Iraq' national unless and until he has obtained a certificate from such officer as may be prescribed by regulation under this law, that he has transferred his place of residence from 'Iraq' in accordance with the provisions of article 6 hereof.

Art. 5. Any person who has attained his majority and who by virtue of article 3 becomes an 'Iraq' national and differs in race from the majority of the population of 'Iraq' may in manner prescribed in article 4 hereof opt for the nationality of one of the States in which the majority of the population is of the same race as the person exercising the right to opt, subject to the consent of that State.

Art. 6. Any person who has exercised the right to opt in accordance with Article 4 or 5 shall be bound to transfer his place of residence from 'Iraq' within twelve months from the date of option and shall thereupon cease to be an 'Iraq' national. He shall be entitled to remove from 'Iraq' free of export duty all movable property owned by him in 'Iraq', and to retain all immovables owned by him therein.

Art. 7. Any Ottoman subject who has attained his majority and who, although not habitually resident in 'Iraq', is a native of 'Iraq', may on or before the 6th day of August, 1926, by written declaration as hereinafter provided opt for 'Iraq' nationality, and he shall thereupon, with the consent of the 'Iraq' Government, acquire 'Iraq' nationality, provided that where necessary an agreement on the subject has been concluded between the 'Iraq' Government and the Government of the country where the person is resident.

Art. 8. The following persons shall be deemed to be 'Iraq' nationals:—

- (a.) Any person wherever born, whose father was at the time of that person's birth an 'Iraq' national, and was either born in 'Iraq' or obtained his 'Iraq' nationality by naturalisation or by virtue of articles 3, 4 or 5 hereof.
- (b.) Any person born in 'Iraq' who has attained his majority and whose father was born in 'Iraq' and was at the time of that person's birth ordinarily resident in 'Iraq'.

Art. 9. Any person born in 'Iraq' whose father is an alien may, within one year after attaining his majority, state by declaration made as hereinafter provided his desire to become an 'Iraq' national, and he shall thereupon be deemed to be an 'Iraq' national. Provided that the declarant, while resident in any country other than 'Iraq', has not acquired any foreign nationality and that there is no provision in the law of the country where he has resided which prevents him from making such a declaration.



Part II.—*Naturalisation.*

Art. 10. Any person not under disability who fulfils the following conditions, may apply as hereinafter provided for the grant of a certificate of naturalisation as an 'Iraq national:—

- (i.) That he has had his usual place of residence in 'Iraq after attaining his majority for the three years immediately preceding his application.
- (ii.) That he is of good character.
- (iii.) That he intends to reside in 'Iraq.

Art. 11. The Minister of Interior shall have absolute discretion to grant or refuse an application for a certificate of naturalisation as he thinks most conducive to the public good, and no appeal shall lie from his decision.

The Minister of Interior may, if he considers that special circumstances render it desirable, dispense with the condition of three years' previous residence.

Art. 12. Subject to the provisions of this law a person to whom a certificate of naturalisation has been granted shall be deemed to be an 'Iraq national for all purposes.

Part III.—*Loss of 'Iraq Nationality.*

Art. 13. An 'Iraq national who becomes voluntarily naturalised in any foreign State shall thereupon cease to be an 'Iraq national, provided that if he shall at any time thereafter have his usual place of residence in 'Iraq for the period of one year he shall, if he continues to reside in 'Iraq, be regarded while in 'Iraq as an 'Iraq national.

Art. 14. Any person who has become an 'Iraq national in pursuance of article 8 of this law may, within one year of attaining his majority, or if he shall have reached his majority on or before the 6th August, 1925, then before the 6th August, 1926, by declaration made in the form hereinafter provided, renounce his 'Iraq nationality and shall thereupon cease to be an 'Iraq national.

Art. 15. If an 'Iraq national shall enter the civil or military service of a foreign State and shall not give up such service, if called upon to do so by the 'Iraq Government, the Minister of Interior may by notice in the "Official Gazette" declare that such person has lost his 'Iraq nationality.

Art. 16. An 'Iraq national who loses his 'Iraq nationality shall not thereby be discharged from any obligation arising from any act done by him before he ceased to be an 'Iraq national.

Part IV.—*National Status of Married Women and Minor Children.*

Art. 17. The wife of an 'Iraq national shall be deemed to be an 'Iraq national and the wife of an alien shall be deemed to be an alien—

- (i.) Provided that a woman who has acquired 'Iraq nationality by marriage may within three years after the death of her husband or dissolution of the marriage renounce her 'Iraq nationality by declaration made in the form hereinafter provided and shall hereupon cease to be an 'Iraq national.
- (ii.) Provided also that a woman who has lost 'Iraq nationality by marriage may resume it by declaration made in the form hereinafter provided within three years from the death of her husband or the dissolution of her marriage.



Art. 18. (1.) If an alien acquires 'Iraq nationality his minor children shall thereupon become 'Iraq nationals.

(2.) If an 'Iraq national ceases to be an 'Iraq national his minor children shall thereupon cease to be 'Iraq nationals. Provided that a minor child who has ceased to be an 'Iraq national under the provisions of this paragraph may within two years after attaining his majority resume 'Iraq nationality by declaration made in the form hereinafter provided.

Art. 19. If a widow or divorced woman who is an alien marry an 'Iraq national, her children born before the said marriage shall not by reason only of such marriage acquire 'Iraq nationality.

Art. 20. The amount of fees to be paid in respect of any application, declaration or grant under this law shall be proclaimed from time to time by Royal Irade.

The Minister of the Interior may by notification in the "Official Gazette" make regulations generally for carrying into effect the objects of this law, and in particular with respect to the following matters:—

- (a.) The form and registration of certificates of naturalisation.
- (b.) The form and registration of declarations of option under articles 4 and 5 hereof, and declarations of acquisition, resumption or renunciation of 'Iraq nationality.

Art. 21. This law shall be deemed to be in force from the 6th day of August, 1924.

Art. 22. The Ministers of Interior and Justice are charged with the execution of this law.

Made at Baghdad this 9th day of October, 1924, and the 10th day of Rabi al Awwal, 1343.

Prime Minister,  
AL HASHIMI.

FAISAL.

Minister of Interior,  
ABDUL MUHSIN.

Minister of Justice,  
RASHID ALI.

#### **The 'Iraq Holy Shrines (Corpse Traffic) Law, 1924.**

#### **5. WE, KING OF 'IRAQ.**

Pursuant to the proposal of the Minister of Interior and with the concurrence of the Council of Ministers do hereby order as follows:—

1. This Law shall be called "The 'Iraq Holy Shrines (Corpse Traffic) Law, 1924."

2. *Definitions.*—In this Law the expression.—

"Dried Corpses" shall mean corpses which are in a state of complete desiccation in which the process of putrefaction has completely ceased and which are in no way offensive.

"Moist Corpses" shall mean corpses which are recently dead and in which the process of putrefaction is still continuing.

"Local Health Authority" shall mean:—

Medical Officer of Health, Baghdad.  
Health Officer, Basra.

Civil Surgeon of Liwas except Baghdad and Basra, Medical Officer of Khanagin Quarantine Post.



Medical Officers of Hospitals in Out-Stations and such other officers as the Director of Public Health may appoint to be Local Health Authorities for the purposes of this Law.

"Local Corpse" shall mean the corpse of a person who had died within 'Iraq.

"Foreign Corpse" shall mean the corpse of a person who had died outside 'Iraq.

3. *Foreign Corpses.*—The 'Iraq Government permits the entry of foreign corpses into 'Iraq and their conveyance to the Holy Shrines subject to the following conditions :—

(a) Corpses will be inspected at the frontier town of entry or at the Basra Port by the Local Health Authority. If passed fit for conveyance to the Holy Shrines a 'Conveyance Permit' signed by the Local Health Authority will be issued for each corpse on payment of a fee of Rs. 7/8.

(b) Dried Corpses will be considered fit for entry into and conveyance within 'Iraq, provided they are completely wrapped or otherwise enclosed, so that no part of the corpse is visible.

(c) Moist corpses will only be allowed to enter 'Iraq with the prior sanction of the 'Iraq Government. They must be hermetically sealed in coffins lined with iron, lead or zinc to the satisfaction of the Inspecting Doctor at the town of entry and must be accompanied by the following documents :—

(1) Certificate from 'Iraq Consular Officer or his representative to the effect that the sanction of the 'Iraq Government has been duly obtained giving the reference of the communication from the 'Iraq Government conveying that sanction. The certificate may be in the form of an endorsement on the passport of some person travelling with the corpse.

(2) Certificate from the foreign authorities or from an 'Iraq Consular Officer or his representative in the country of origin that the corpse had not died from an infectious disease, the actual cause of death being stated, and that the certifying authority has actually satisfied himself that the corpse is hermetically sealed in a suitable coffin.

(d) Entry of moist corpses to 'Iraq will only be permitted between November 1st and March 31st.

(e) Unless the above conditions are fulfilled the corpse will not be admitted into 'Iraq and will have to be removed outside the borders of 'Iraq. Where facilities exist, they may be buried in the quarantine post cemeteries of frontier towns on payment of a charge of Rs. 10 until such time as they are fit for the issue of a conveyance permit.

4. *Local corpses.*—Local corpses may be conveyed to the Holy Shrines for burial subject to the following rules :—

(a) No corpse may be removed from place to place within 'Iraq without the conveyance permit issued by a Local Health Authority. Provided that in places more than fifteen miles distant from the nearest Local Health Authority a temporary permit for conveyance may be issued by the Mudir or Police Officer of the Nahiyah.

The holder of any such permit shall present same for countersignature to the first Local Health Authority on the route taken.



(b) Dried corpses are considered fit for conveyance.

(c) Moist corpses will only be considered fit for conveyance if brought before the nearest Local Health Authority for inspection within 36 hours of death.

The conveyance permit will not be granted unless the corpse is hermetically sealed in a coffin lined with iron, lead or zinc.

(d) A fee of Rs. 2/8 will be charged in respect of each permit or temporary permit issued under this Article.

(e) Moist corpses from certain areas may be permitted conveyance to the Holy Cities without being enclosed in hermetically sealed metal-lined coffins. The Director of Public Health with the approval of the Minister of Interior is authorised to prescribe or vary these areas from time to time. On the promulgation of this law this clause will apply to moist corpses sent from the Hilla, Kerbala and Diwaniya Liwas for burial at Nadjaf and Kerbala and to moist corpses sent from any part of the Baghdad Liwa to Kadhimain.

5. Corpses whether foreign or local may be buried in the Holy Cities with the permission of the Local Health Authority which shall be granted free of charge on production of the conveyance permit. Provided that in the case of persons dying in the Liwa where the corpse is buried, it shall not be necessary to produce a conveyance permit.

Nothing in this section shall affect the charges made by or the arrangement for burial to be made with the religious authorities.

6. All fees mentioned in this Law are payable by Revenue Stamps affixed on the conveyance permits or in such manner as the Minister of Finance may from time to time direct.

7. The Director of Public Health, with the approval of the Minister of Interior, is authorised to prescribe the form of conveyance and burial permits and to issue such instructions as may be necessary for the proper execution of this law.

8. Any contravention against this Law will be punishable by fine not exceeding Rs. 200 or imprisonment not exceeding three months or by both fine and imprisonment.

9. This Law shall come into force two months from the date of its publication in the *Government Gazette*.

10. The Minister of Interior is charged with the execution of this Law.

Made at Baghdad on the 23rd November, 1924 and the 26th Rabi-al-Thani, 1343.

FAISAL.

Prime Minister,  
AL HASHIMI.

Minister of Interior,  
'ABDUL MUHSIN.

#### Importation of Plants Law, 1924.

#### 41. WE, KING OF IRAQ.

Pursuant to the proposals of the Minister of the Interior and with the concurrence of the Council of Ministers, do hereby order as follows:—

1. This Law shall be called the "Importation of Plants Law, 1924."



2. In this Law, the expression—

(a) " Plant " shall mean :—

(1) All living plants with a persistent woody stem above ground and to all parts of the same such as *stocks, stools*, nursery trees, *grafts, layers* or *cuttings thereof*.

(2) Cotton seed and unginned cotton (otherwise known as seed cotton or *Kapas*).

(3) All bulbs, corms, rhizomes and tubers, other than potatoes.

(b) " Government Inspector " shall mean an officer appointed by the Director of Agriculture for the purposes of this Law.

3. Subject to the provisions of Article 5 hereof, any plant or consignment of plants arriving in 'Iraq from overseas, whether by post or otherwise, will be detained for inspection by a Government Inspector. The inspection shall be undertaken at such place as may be prescribed.

4. If any plant or consignment of plants be found to be infested by a scheduled pest, the Government Inspector shall order the same to be destroyed, unless he considers that treatment for disinfection is advisable in which case he shall detain the plants or consignment of plants until the disinfection is completed.

5. The Government Inspector may, at his discretion, pass without inspection any plants or consignment of plants which are accompanied by a certificate from a competent official of the Department of Agriculture of the country of export to the effect that they are free from scheduled pests.

6. All charges in connection with the inspection, detention, destruction or disinfection of plants shall be borne by the person importing the same.

7. Any person who desires to export a plant or consignment of plants may apply in such manner as may be prescribed to have the same inspected and certified free from scheduled pests. On receipt of the application, the Government Inspector shall appoint a time and place for the inspection and, if satisfied after inspection that the plants are free from scheduled pests, shall issue his certificate to that effect on payment of such fees (if any) as may be prescribed.

8. By-Laws may be issued from time to time for the following purposes :—

To prescribe the fees to be charged for the inspection, detention, destruction of plants, or for the issue of certificates.

9. Instructions may be issued from time to time by the Minister of Interior for the following purposes :—

(a) To alter or add to the Schedule hereto.

(b) To specify places of detention or inspection.

(c) In general for the proper execution of this Law.

10. The Minister of Interior is authorized to issue necessary orders for the burning or destruction of all plants in 'Iraq which show symptoms of contagious diseases.

11. Any person who—

(a) Removes any plant from a place of detention without being authorized so to do by the Government Inspector :

(b) Wilfully evades or attempts to evade the inspection of any plant :

(c) Obstructs or attempts to obstruct a Government Inspector in the execution of his duties under this Law :



shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable to be punished by fine not exceeding Rs. 1,000 or by imprisonment not exceeding six months or by both imprisonment and fine.

12. Nothing in this law shall apply to plants or consignments of plants imported for scientific investigation under licence from the Director of Agriculture expressly stating that the same are free from inspection.

13. This Law shall come into force from the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*, and the Importation of Plants Law, 1924, dated 11th March, 1924 and 7th Shawal, 1343, is hereby repealed.

14. The Minister of the Interior is charged with the execution of this Law.

Made at Baghdad this 7th day of January, 1925 and the 13th day of Jamad al Thani, 1343.

FAISAL.

Prime Minister,  
Y. AL HASHIMI.

Minister of Interior,  
'ABDUL MUHSIN.

#### Schedule of Pests and Insects.

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>Gelechia Gossypiella</i> (Pink boll-worm).   | 20. <i>Sylepta Derogata</i> .                            |
| 2. <i>Heliothis Obsoleta</i> (American boll-worm). | 21. <i>Cosmophila Erosa</i> .                            |
| 3. <i>Anthonomus Grandis</i> .                     | 22. <i>Earias Fabia</i> .                                |
| 4. <i>Phylloxera Vastatrix</i> .                   | 23. <i>Icerya Purchasi</i> .                             |
| 5. <i>Ceratitidis Capitata</i> .                   | 24. <i>Aspidiotus Aurantii</i> .                         |
| 6. <i>Aspidiotus Perniciosus</i> .                 | 25. <i>Aphis</i> and scale insects and mites in general. |
| 7. <i>Craponius Inaequalis</i> .                   | 26. <i>Puccinia</i> .                                    |
| 8. <i>Polychrosis Viteana</i> .                    | 27. <i>Ustilago</i> .                                    |
| 9. <i>Drosophila Melanogaster</i> .                | 28. <i>Tilletia</i> .                                    |
| 10. <i>Porthetria Dispar</i> .                     | 29. <i>Erysiphe</i> .                                    |
| 11. <i>Euproctis Chrysorrhæa</i> .                 | 30. <i>Nectria Ditissima</i> .                           |
| 12. <i>Conotrachelus Nenuphar</i> .                | 31. <i>Guignardia</i> .                                  |
| 13. <i>Schizoneura Lanigera</i> .                  | 32. <i>Gloeosporium</i> .                                |
| 14. <i>Lepidosaphes Ulmi</i> .                     | 33. <i>Cladosporium</i> .                                |
| 15. <i>Chionaspis Furfura</i> .                    | 34. <i>Peronospora</i> .                                 |
| 16. <i>Malacasoma Americana</i> .                  | 35. <i>Plasmopara</i> .                                  |
| 17. <i>Psylla Mali</i> .                           | 36. <i>Exoascus</i> .                                    |
| 18. <i>Mayetiola Destructor</i> .                  | 37. <i>Uncilula</i> .                                    |
| 19. <i>Leucania Unipuncta</i> .                    | 38. <i>Venturia</i> .                                    |
|  | 39. <i>Plowrightia Morbosa</i> .                         |

#### The Diseases of Animals Law, 1924.

##### 42. WE, KING OF 'IRAQ.

Pursuant to the proposals of the Minister of Interior and with the concurrence of the Council of Ministers, do hereby order as follows:—

1. This Law shall be called "The Diseases of Animals Law, 1924."
2. In this Law unless there is anything repugnant in the context, the following words shall have the following meaning:—
  - (i) "Animals" shall include cattle (bulls, oxen, cows, heifers and calves) sheep, goats, horses, mules, donkeys, dogs, cats and such other animals as the Minister of the Interior may by notification in the *Official Gazette* include in the scope of this definition.



- (ii) " Diseases " shall mean any of the following diseases :—Rinderpest (Abu Hadlan or Hodali). Glanders and Farcy (Naqao), Epizootic Lymphangitis (Suraja), Anthrax (Jumrah), Foot and Mouth Disease (Abu Lisan wa abu Rijla), Rabies (El Kaleb), Contagious pleuro-pneumonia, (Dhat el Jambwal Riatul saria) or (Abu Fashsha), black quarter (Swad el Saq), Hæmorrhagic Septicæmia ('Afounat el dam el Nazafi), Tuberculosis (Daa el Sill), Surra, (Soorah), Dourine (Bajl).
- (iii) " Carcass " shall mean the carcass or any part or the carcass of an animal and includes the meat, bones, hides, skins, hoofs, offal or any other part of an animal, or any portion thereof.
- (iv) " Veterinary Officer " shall mean an officer of the Civil Veterinary Department.
- (v) " Veterinary Inspector " shall include all veterinary officers, all agricultural officers, all medical officers, all inspectors and commandants of Police and such other persons as may be appointed in that behalf by the Director of the Civil Veterinary Department.
- (vi) " Owner " shall mean every person who is the sole or part owner of any animal and shall include any person who, in the absence of the actual owner of the animal, is in the permanent charge of such animal. In the case of dogs or cats, the expression owner shall also include the person occupying a house, place or premises or part of premises where the dog or cat shall be found, unless reasonable proof to the contrary exists.
- (vii) " Fodder " shall mean bhoosa or tibbin, hay, grain or other substance commonly used for food for animals.
- (viii) " Litter " shall mean those substances commonly used for bedding or otherwise for or about animals.

3. Where it shall appear to a Veterinary Inspector or any owner that an animal on any land or in any place has become or is suspected of being infected with a disease, he shall report the same without undue delay to the nearest Veterinary Officer or to the nearest Mutasarrif or Qaimmaqam or Police Officer who shall send immediate information of the case to the Veterinary Officer.

4. Whenever the Veterinary Officer is satisfied that a disease exists in any land or place he may declare such land or place or any defined area therein to be an infected area. Such declaration shall state the site and limits of the infected area and the disease with which it is declared infected.

5. A declaration made under the preceding section shall be notified in writing to the owner of the animal and copy thereof shall be forwarded to the Police Officer, the Sanitary Officer and the Agricultural Officer of the district. It may also, if the Director of Civil Veterinary Department shall so determine, be published in the *Official Gazette* and in the daily newspapers.

6. An area in respect of which a declaration as above has been made shall not for the purpose of this Law be considered to be free from disease until a declaration in writing is made by the Veterinary Officer that it is free from disease. This declaration shall be notified to the owner or owners of the animals concerned and if the declaration of infection has been published in the *Official Gazette* or the daily newspapers, the declaration made under this section shall be published in a similar manner.



7. The Veterinary Officer shall, upon receipt of information under Section 3 hereof, and after consultation with the Director of Civil Veterinary Department in respect of any area declared to be infected under Section 4 hereof, issue orders in writing defining the measures to be taken to carry out in whole or in part the regulations and instructions issued on the following subjects :—

- (a) Branding, isolating, inoculating, disinfecting, testing, dipping, spraying, muzzling or destroying an animal ;
- (b) Prohibiting or regulating the movements of animals and persons into, out of, or within the infected area or place ;
- (c) The destruction, disposal, or treatment of any carcass, fodder, litter or dung ;
- (d) The cleansing and disinfecting of infected areas or part thereof ;
- (e) The disinfecting of the clothes of any person within an infected area and for restricting or preventing the movements of persons where any such movements are likely to spread diseases and prescribing the precautions to be taken by any person whose movements are so restricted.
- (f) The disinfection or treatment of any pasture or grazing ground within an infected area ;
- (g) Closing or controlling slaughter-houses or cattle markets.

8. A Veterinary Inspector shall have the right to enter any land, stables or other premises for the purpose of investigating cases in which disease is believed to exist or generally for the purposes of this law. Such entry shall be made at reasonable hours in the day time and due regard shall be paid to the convenience of the occupiers of the premises.

9. Any person who—

- (a) Fails to notify disease as provided for by Article 3, or,
- (b) Fails to comply with any measures prescribed by the Veterinary Officer under Article 7 hereof or,
- (c) Fails to comply with any regulations made by Royal Irada or instructions issued by the Minister of the Interior under the provisions of Articles 10 and 11 hereof, or,
- (d) Obstructs or attempts to obstruct any Veterinary Officer or Veterinary Inspector in the execution of his duties under this Law,
- (e) Or otherwise contravenes the provisions of this Law, shall be guilty of an offence against this Law and shall be punishable with imprisonment not exceeding 3 months or fine not exceeding 1,000 rupees, or both imprisonment and fine.

In any prosecution for an offence against this Law any report signed by a Veterinary Officer may be accepted as evidence, unless the accused desires that the Veterinary Officer attends as a witness or the Court considers his attendance necessary.

10. The Minister of Interior may issue in the *Government Gazette* regulations prohibiting absolutely or admitting subject to such conditions as may be deemed expedient the importation of any kind of animals from any part or place or country where a disease of animals shall be reported to exist, and such regulations may be repealed or amended from time to time.

11. The Minister of Interior may, by notification in the *Government Gazette*, issue instructions prescribing the measures to be taken in respect of such disease.

And generally for the purposes of the proper execution of this Law. And such instructions may be cancelled or amended from time to time.



12. This Law shall come into force one month after the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

13. The Minister of the Interior is charged with the execution of this Law.

Made at Baghdad this 27th day of December, 1924, and the 1st day of Jamad al Akhar, 1343.

FAISAL.

Prime Minister,  
Y AL HASHIMI.

Minister of Interior,  
'ABDUL MUHSIN.

### The Forcible Assistance Law.

#### 177. WE, KING OF 'IRAQ.

Pursuant to the proposals of the Acting Minister of Interior and with the concurrence of the Council of State, do hereby order as follows :—

*Section 1.* This Law may be called the "Forcible Assistance Law."

*Section 2.* The Ministry of Interior may, in sudden and unexpected circumstances, grant to the Senior Administrative Officials authority to collect labour and to employ them, at rates of pay to be fixed by the Government, in order to stop the floods, the extension of fire, or the spread of locusts which may result in great public harm.

*Section 3.* Senior Administrative Officials cannot use this authority without the sanction of the Ministry of Interior, except when the occurrence is of such a nature that it cannot wait the delay of correspondence for the sanction and in this case the Administrative Official may take upon himself the responsibility of putting into effect this authority, advising the Ministry as early as possible.

*Section 4.* The rates of pay for the labour will be fixed by the Administrative Officials who will be charged with the execution of this Law.

*Section 5.* Every labourer who contravenes the order of the Administrative Official shall be forcibly taken to the place of the work and shall afterwards, be punished with imprisonment not exceeding one month or a fine not exceeding Rs. 100/-.

*Section 6.* Every Sirkal, Mukhtar, Shaikh or Rais who refuses to supply the necessary number of labour required from him or who refuses to give the necessary assistance required owing to that sudden situation and provided this has been proved against him, shall be liable to punishment not exceeding six months imprisonment or to a fine not exceeding Rs. 1,000/- or to both the punishments.

*Section 7.* When, owing to sudden occurrences taking place, it is necessary to put into effect the terms of this Law, Mutasarrifs and Qaimmaqams shall have 2nd class Magisterial powers in accordance with the Criminal Procedure Regulations so as to judge the crimes enumerated in Sections 5 and 6 of this Law and the judgments shall be executed in accordance with the Law in question.



*Section 8.* The Acting Minister of Interior and the Minister of Justice are charged with the execution of this Law.

*Section 9.* This Law shall come into force with effect from the date of its publication.

Made at Baghdad this 27th day of March, 1923 and 9th day of Sha'ban, 1341.

FAISAL.

*Prime Minister and Acting Minister of Interior. Minister of Justice.*

'ABDUL MUHSIN.

NAJI AL SUWAIDI.

### Transit Trade Law, 1924.

#### 195. WE, KING OF 'IRAQ.

Pursuant to the proposals of our Minister of Finance and with the approval of the Council of Ministers, do hereby order :—

1. This law shall be called the Transit Trade Law, 1924.

2. Goods in transit through 'Iraq to and from such countries as may be notified from time to time by the Minister of Finance shall pay transit duty at the following rates, provided that the goods, if not immediately transported through 'Iraq, are placed in bond :—

Half per cent. on goods remaining in 'Iraq not more than six calendar months.

One per cent. on goods remaining in 'Iraq for more than six calendar months, and not more than one year.

Two per cent. on goods remaining in 'Iraq for more than one year and not more than two years.

Three per cent. on goods remaining in 'Iraq for more than two years and not more than three years.

Transit duty shall be paid in all cases on the delivery cost of the goods (including packing, freight, insurance, landing, handling and other expenses of import) and the periods above mentioned shall be reckoned from the date of arrival in 'Iraq at the place to which they are first consigned.

3. Nothing in this law shall give the right to keep goods in bond for a period longer than that prescribed by the Customs Law in force for the time being.

4. The Minister of Finance, or the Director of Customs and Excise, if authorized by him, shall prescribe the conditions governing the transit of goods through 'Iraq under Section 2 of this Law.

5. Article 3 of Customs Proclamation, 1920, is hereby *repealed*.

6. This law shall come into force from a date to be notified in the *Official Gazette* by the Minister of Finance.

7. The Minister of Finance is charged with the execution of this Law.

Made at Baghdad, this eighteenth day of October, 1924, and the 19th day of Rabi al Awwal, 1343.

FAISAL.

*Prime Minister,*  
AL HASHIMI.

*Minister of Finance,*  
SASSOQN.



**Transit Trade Agreement between the Governments of  
Iraq and Syria and the Lebanon.**

81. It is hereby agreed in consultation between the Inspector-General of Customs in Syria and the Lebanon and the Director of Customs and Excise, Iraq, acting on behalf of their respective Governments, that :—

*Article 1.*—Goods of any origin, including those of Syro-Lebanese or of Iraq or both countries, will not be subjected to payment of Customs Import Duties if removed through the country or countries of transit within six months of entry thereto, according to conditions framed by either country suitable to its own regulations. A transit due of one-half per cent. of the C.I.F. value will be levied upon such goods in the country, or each of the countries, through which they are transported within six months of entry thereto, and no preferential rate will be afforded to the goods of any country.

*Article 2.*—Transit facilities will not be afforded to articles, the entry of which into either country is prohibited by their respective Customs regulations either on grounds of public health or security or as a precaution against diseases of animals or plants.

*Article 3.*—Either country will be free to frame any regulation which they may consider suitable in regard to the accommodation and removal of goods in transit, in or through the territories when the period occupied exceeds six months from the date of entry thereto.

*Article 4.*—Goods when passing in transit through either or both countries will be retained under the control of the Customs authorities of the country, or countries, of transit during the period occupied by such transit.

*Article 5.*—In the case of goods for transportation in transit through both countries, separate formalities relating to transit will be required in both countries.

*Article 6.*—To ensure compliance with transit regulations, guarantee, or guarantees will be taken, according to the regulations of the country of transit, from the party transporting goods. Such guarantee or guarantees, will, when conditions attached to the transaction are not properly fulfilled, entail liability to payment of the Customs import duty leviable in the country where the transit regulations have been infringed, and also liability to any penalty prescribed by the transit regulations of that country.

*Article 7.*—Routes of entry and exit for goods arriving and leaving their territories will be prescribed by either country in agreement with the other. In the schedule to this agreement are stated the routes that will be laid down in the first instance.

*Article 8.*—Arrangements will be made by each contracting country for the exchange of documents covering goods in transit through either or both countries, and for requisite endorsements upon such documents, as proof that goods removed from either have entered the other through places to be named therein and have arrived at appointed destinations to be specified therein.

*Article 9.*—It will be a condition of the transit regulations of both countries, that in order to secure transit privileges for goods so declared, covering documents endorsed by the Customs authorities of either shall be returned by the holder of such documents to the office whence they were issued within three months of removal of goods therefrom.



*Article 10.*—Both countries bind themselves to take adequate preventive measures to safeguard the revenue and other interests of either, and to exchange information, including copies of all Customs and transit regulations as may from time to time be issued by the Government of either country.

*Article 11.*—This agreement which shall in the first place be applicable for a period of one year dating from 1st April, 1925, shall thereafter be considered as having been renewed annually for a further period of one year unless within three months before the date of its expiration either of the contracting parties shall have given notice to the other of their intention to terminate it.

*Article 12.*—Alteration in the conditions of agreement between the two countries affecting transit trade may be effected at the time when annual renewal takes place, provided that three months notice of the change is given by the party desiring it to the other party.

*The General High Commissioner of the French Republic,* *His Britannic Majesty's High Commissioner,*  
SARRAIL. H. DOBBS.

*Minister of Finance, 'Iraq,*  
SASSOON.

#### Schedule.

Routes of entry and exit for goods in transit between

*'Iraq and Syria and the Lebanon*

- (a) From Baghdad to Damascus and *vice-versa*, via Ramadie, through Falujah.
- (b) From Baghdad to Damascus and *vice-versa*, via Hit, through Falujah and Ramadie.
- (c) From Baghdad to Damascus and *vice-versa*, via Albu Kemal, through Felujah, Ramadie, Hit and 'Ana.
- (d) From Baghdad to Deir-ez-Zor and *vice-versa*, via Albu Kemal, through Felujah, Ramadie, Hit and 'Ana.
- (e) From Baghdad to Aleppo and *vice-versa*, via Deir-ez-Zor, through Felujah, Ramadie, Hit, 'Ana and Albu Kemal.

Goods in transit may only be destined for Damascus, Deir-ez-Zor, Aleppo and Baghdad where final endorsements on covering documents will be furnished. Endorsements on covering documents will be required *en route* at (a) Ramadie, (b) Hit, (c) 'Ana and Albu Kemal, (d) 'Ana and Albu Kemal and (e) 'Ana, Albu Kemal and Deir-ez-Zor.

#### Organic Law, Amendment Law, 1925.

##### 171. WE, KING OF 'IRAQ.

Pursuant to the decision of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, have approved the following Law.

*Article 1.*—This Law shall be called "The Organic Law Amendment Law 1925."



*Article 2.*—Article 23 shall be considered as a second para. to Article 22.

*Article 3.*—The following Article shall be *added* and shall be considered as Article 23.

“The King may, when necessary, absent himself from ‘Iraq by a resolution of the Council of Ministers which shall be published.

Before his departure from ‘Iraq the King shall, with the approval of the Council of Ministers, appoint a Regent or a Regency Council and define the rights vested on them.

The Regent or any member of the Regency Council shall not exercise any of the rights of the King until he has sworn the oath mentioned in Article 21 of the Organic Law.

If the Parliament is in Session the oath shall be sworn in accordance with the provisions of Article 21 aforesaid; otherwise it shall be sworn before the Council of Ministers and in the presence of the Presidents of the Chambers of Senate and Deputies or those deputed on their behalf.

A Minister shall not be a Regent or a member of the Regency Council. If a member of the Senate or the Chamber of Deputies be appointed Regent or a member of the Regency Council he shall not participate in his Chamber during the period of Regency.

If the absence of the King last more than four months and Parliament be not sitting then it shall be summoned immediately to consider the matter.

The Regent or a member of the Regency Council must be of ‘Iraqi nationality and of not less than 30 years of age.

A male relative of the King who has completed 18 years of age may also be appointed.”

*Article 4.*—Article 35 shall be amended as follows;

Every Senator shall receive, in addition to Travelling expenses, the sum of Rupees 5,000 only for each ordinary Session; and a sum of Rupees 1,250 for every month in prolongation of such Session or for every month of an Extraordinary Session.

*Article 5.*—Article 39 shall be amended as follows;

“The King shall summon the Chamber to assemble in the Capital for the ordinary Session on November 1st of each year, subject to the provisions of Article 38, and if not so summoned on that day it shall assemble of its own accord in due course of Law and the ordinary Session shall then begin, and this shall extend for four months unless the King dissolves the Chamber before the expiration of that period or prolongs its session for the purpose of the despatch of business of an urgent nature. If the session be prolonged then the total period of the Session shall not exceed six months.

*Article 6.*—Article 40 shall be amended by the addition of the following as a 2nd para. thereto.

“The King may summon the Chamber to meet in Extraordinary Session outside the period of Ordinary Session for the purpose of deciding specified matters which shall be stated when the summons is issued. This Session shall be dissolved by a Royal Irada.”

*Article 7.*—Article 50 shall be amended as follows;

“Every member of the Chamber of Deputies shall receive, in addition to Travelling expenses, a yearly allowance of Rupees 4,000 only for each ordinary session; and Rs. 1,000 for every month in prolongation of the session in question or for every month of the Extraordinary Session.”



**Article 8.**—Article 82 shall be amended by the addition of the following words ;

“ And if the President is unable to attend the Vice-President shall preside over the Court.”

**Article 9.**—Article 83 shall be amended by the addition of the following words.

The Court shall be composed and convened in accordance with the provisions of the preceding article. If, however, Parliament is not sitting the appointment of the members mentioned in the preceding Article shall be by the Royal Irada issued for the assembling of the Court.

**Article 10.**—This Law shall come into force from the date of its publication.

Made at Baghdad this 29th day of July, 1925 and the 7th day of Muharram, 1344.

FAISAL.

*Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign Affairs,*

*Minister of Interior,*

ABDUL MUHSIN AL SA'DUN.

HIKMAT SULAIMAN.

#### **Regulations Putting into Force the Judicial Agreement, 1925.**

##### **172. WE, KING OF 'IRAQ.**

In order to put into force the Judicial Agreement concluded on 25th March, 1924 and annexed to the Anglo 'Iraq Treaty and by virtue of the provisions of clause (c) of Article 26 of the Organic Law and with the concurrence of the Council of Ministers, do hereby sanction and direct the publication of the following regulations :—

**Article 1.**—These Regulations shall be called “ The Regulations putting into force the Judicial Agreement, 1925.”

**Article 2.**—In these regulations the expression “ Foreigners ” means the nationals of any European or American State which formerly benefited by Capitulations in Turkey and did not renounce the same by an Agreement signed before the 24th July, 1923 and of any Asiatic State which is now permanently represented on the Council of the League of Nations, and includes corporations constituted under the Laws of such State and religious or charitable bodies or institutions wholly or mainly composed of Nationals of such States.

**Article 3.**—Foreigners accused of an offence (other than a contravention) which is within the jurisdiction of a single Magistrate may claim to be tried by a British Magistrate.

**Article 4.**—Foreigners accused of an offence which is beyond the Jurisdiction of a single Magistrate may claim that the interrogation during the preliminary investigation shall be undertaken and that the orders as to their release on bail and as to their committal for trial shall be made by a British Magistrate.

**Article 5.**—Foreigners committed for trial may claim that their trial shall be held before a Court which includes at least one British Judge who shall preside.



*Article 6.*—In civil actions over seven hundred and fifty rupees in value, foreigners who are parties to the cause may claim that the final judgment in a Court of First Instance shall be given, and that appeals or applications for revisions shall be heard by Courts presided over by British Judges and composed so as to include at least one British Judge in a Court of three or less than three, at least two British Judges in a Court of four or five and three British Judges in a Court of more than five.

*Article 7.*—In criminal cases foreigners may claim that their appeal or application for revision shall be heard by a Court presided over by a British Judge and composed as prescribed by the preceding Article or if all the parties joining in such appeal or application are foreigners and agree to that course, by a British Judge sitting alone.

*Article 8.*—Every claim under the preceding Articles shall be made in manner prescribed by the rules of Court set out in the Schedule hereto.

*Article 9.*—In the event of a claim being duly made in accordance with any of Articles 3 to 7 hereof no Court shall take cognisance of the matter to which such claim refers unless it is constituted in accordance with these regulations and the proceedings of any Court, not so constituted, shall upon application being made by the foreigner concerned to the proper Court, be declared invalid but only in so far as regards anything done in the said matter after presentation of the claim.

*Article 10.*—Any foreigner who is a party to any proceedings in respect of which a claim may be made under Articles 3 to 7 hereof and has no sufficient knowledge of Arabic to understand them may claim that all proceedings shall be translated in English and the Court shall so order if it considers the claim to be well grounded.

*Article 11.*—(1) In the towns of Baghdad and Basra and their environs and in all other places where a British Judge or Magistrate having jurisdiction for that purpose is available, the house occupied by a foreigner shall not be entered by any judicial or administrative authority except on a warrant issued by a British Judge or Magistrate.

(2) Where no British Judge or Magistrate is available as above and in all cases where the police are by law allowed to enter houses without search warrant sub-section (i) of this Article shall not apply but a report of the entry of the house occupied by a foreigner shall be made by the police at the first opportunity to the nearest British Judge or Magistrate.

*Article 12.*—(1) If doubt shall arise as to whether any person or corporation is a foreigner within the meaning of Article 2 hereof the matter shall be referred for decision to a Board to be called "The Foreigners' Jurisdiction Board."

(2) The Foreigners' Jurisdiction Board shall be composed of three Judges of the Court of Cassation of whom two shall be British Judges and shall be presided over by the Senior of the two British members.

(3) Decisions of the Board shall be by majority and shall be conclusive.

(4) The Members of the Board shall be appointed by the Minister of Justice and no Judge shall be disqualified from sitting on the Board by reason only that he may have dealt with the matter under discussion in any judicial capacity.



(5) Reference to the Board may be made by any person of corporation by petition addressed to the President of the Court of Cassation or by any Court, when it thinks this is necessary.

(6) A decision of the Board as to whether a person is or is not a foreigner as aforesaid shall be of no effect otherwise than for the purpose of this law and does not affect any other matter.

**Article 13.**—His Majesty the King may from time to time by Royal Irada issued with the concurrence of the Council of Ministers alter or add to the rules of Court set out in the Schedule hereto.

These Regulations shall come into force from the date of their publication.

Made at Baghdad this 12th day of July, 1925 and the 20th day Dhil Hijja, 1343.

FAISAL.

Prime Minister,

‘ABDUL MUHSIN,

Minister of Justice,

NAJI AL SUWAIDI.

### The Schedule.

#### Rules of Court.

1. Every claim under Article 3 shall be made before the Court begins to hear the prosecution and may be made either verbally to the Court or by petition. If made verbally it shall be recorded in the proceedings of the Court.

2. Every claim under Article 4 shall be made before the Court proceeds to read the deposition taken by the Percurator, if any, or to hear the prosecution and may be made either verbally to the Court or by petition. If made verbally it shall be recorded in the proceedings of the Court.

3. Every claim under Article 5 shall be made by petition at any time before the accused pleads to the charge.

4. Every claim under Article 6 shall be included in the first written statement of claim or defence presented by the claimant.

5. Every claim under Article 7 shall be included in the application for appeal or revision or, if the claimant does not so apply, then the claim shall be made by petition at any time before the hearing of the case.

6. The Court may accept a claim under Articles 3 to 7 of this Law after the time prescribed, if the Court consider that the delay in presenting the same is due to *bona fide* mistake or ignorance on the part of the claimant.

### Flax Cultivation Law, 1925.

70. We, KING of IRAQ.

Pursuant to the proposals of the Minister of Finance and with the concurrence of the Council of Ministers, do hereby order as follows:—

**Article 1.**—This Law shall be called the “Flax Cultivation Law, 1925.”



**Article 2.**—The following privileges will be granted to cultivators of Flax for a period of three years from the date hereof :—

		Rs.	A.	P.
(a) <i>Miri, or Mudawara lands.</i>				
Irrigated by flow	will pay per donum jadid	5	0	0
Irrigated by lift	.. .. .	2	8	0
„	„ rain .. .. .	2	0	0
(b) <i>Tapu lands.</i>				
Irrigated by flow	.. .. .	3	0	0
„	„ lift .. .. .	1	8	0
„	„ rain .. .. .	1	0	0

**Article 3.**—The above-mentioned terms do not affect lands which are subject to annual fixed taxes.

**Article 4.**—Flax Seed and Flax Machinery shall be exempt from Customs Import Duty for a period of five years from the date hereof.

**Article 5.**—Every person importing or selling Flax Seed, and working Flax Machinery shall comply with the regulations prescribed in the schedule appended hereto.

**Article 6.**—The Minister of Interior may from time to time, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, amend or add to the regulations contained in the above mentioned Schedule.

**Article 7.**—The Minister of Finance shall, by notification in the *Official Gazette*, prescribe the procedure for claiming exemption from Customs Import Duty.

**Article 8.**—The Ministers of Interior and Finance are charged with the execution of this Law.

Made at Baghdad the 2nd day of February, 1925, and the 8th day of Rajab, 1343.

FAISAL.

Minister of Finance,  
SASSOON.

Prime Minister,  
Y. AL HASHIMI.

#### Schedule appended in accordance with Article 5 of the Flax Cultivation Law, 1925.

1. Flax Seed shall not be sold, offered for sale, or sown, except such as is approved by the Director of Agriculture.
2. Any person setting up a factory for the purpose of retting, scutching and handling Flax shall be required to employ at least one employee licensed by the Director of Agriculture.
3. All Flax machinery utilized in such factories shall be of patterns approved by the Director of Agriculture.
4. The Director of Agriculture may require persons operating Flax Factories to maintain reasonable stocks of fresh approved Seed for sale to cultivators, the amount of such stock of Seed to be determined by the production of the factory.
5. The produce of all factories shall be graded by the factory's licensed employee into at least three grades of flax and at least two grades of hemp. Any authorized representative of the Director of Agriculture shall have the right at any time to enter any flax factory or any warehouse where flax is stored for general purposes of inspection and particularly to satisfy himself that the grading of flax and hemp is being done in a satisfactory manner.



### Law of Medical Practice in 'Iraq.

#### 76. We, KING of 'IRAQ.

Pursuant to the proposals of the Minister of Interior and with the concurrence of the Council of Ministers do hereby order as follows :—

#### 1. This Law shall be called, Law of Medical Practice in 'Iraq, 1925.

#### 2. In this Law the expression :—

- (1) " Medicine " shall mean the science and art of prevention, treatment or alleviation of disease or infirmities of mankind.
- (2) " Doctor " shall mean a person possessing a degree or diploma in medicine of a recognised authority, qualifying him to practise all branches of medicine.
- (3) " Dentist " shall mean a person possessing a degree or diploma in dentistry from a recognised authority, qualifying him to practise dentistry.
- (4) " Dental Mechanic " shall mean a person trained in mechanical dentistry who is authorised under the provisions of Article 10 hereof to practise certain branches of dentistry.
- (5) " Dresser " shall mean a person, skilled in the external treatment of minor surgical diseases or infirmities, who is authorised under the provisions of Article 10 hereof to practise dressing.
- (6) " Vaccinator " shall mean a person skilled in the practise of vaccination, who is authorised, under the provisions of Article 10 hereof to practise vaccination.
- (7) " Midwife " shall mean a person, skilled in the practise of assisting women in childbirth, who is authorised under the provisions of Article 10 hereof to practise midwifery.
- (8) " Nurse " shall mean a person skilled in the care of the sick or infirm, who is authorised under the provisions of Article 10 hereof to practice nursing.

#### *Kind of Professional Misconduct.*

#### (9) " Professional Misconduct " shall mean :—

- (a) The employment of any person as dresser, dental mechanic, vaccinator, midwife or nurse who is not duly authorised to practise under the provisions of this Law and the permitting of any such person to attend or treat patients by rendering assistance or co-operation to him.
- (b) Advertising or sanctioning such advertising with a view to his own gain.
- (c) Employing or sanctioning the employment of agents or canvassers for the purpose of procuring patients.
- (d) Failure to comply with the regulations made under the provisions of Article 10 hereof.
- (e) In general anything detrimental to the honour and interests of the profession of medicine.
- (f) All contraventions against the practise of medicine coming within the meaning of the provisions of the Baghdad Penal Code.



- (10) "Recognised Authority" shall mean those universities, schools or corporations, having power to grant degrees or diplomas in all or any of the branches of medicine which the Director of Public Health may, from time to time, by notification in the *Official Gazette* recognise as of a sufficient standard to qualify the holder to practise in 'Iraq.

Throughout this law the masculine shall include the feminine.

*Conditions for the practise of medicine.*

3. The practise of medicine or any of its branches in 'Iraq for payment or otherwise is forbidden, except to persons authorised in accordance with this law.

4. A doctor or dentist desirous of practising his profession in 'Iraq must:—

- (a) Attend the office of the Director of Public Health with proofs of his identity and with the degrees and diplomas of his qualification for registration with the Director of Public Health.
- (b) If he be of other than 'Iraq nationality, also produce a certificate from the 'Iraq Consular representative of his country of origin to the effect that (1) he is of good moral character, (2) that his diploma is valid and (3) that he has not been found guilty of any illegality in the practice of his profession.

The Director of Public Health, if satisfied as to the character and qualifications of the applicant, will enter the name of the applicant in the Official Register of doctors or dentists, and issue to the applicant a certificate of registration.

The Director of Public Health may, at his discretion, require the doctor to undergo a short examination by the High Health Council.

The fee for registration for doctors or dentists shall be Rs. 50, but if the applicant be of other than 'Iraq nationality, shall be Rs. 500.

The registration must be renewed each year between January 1st and January 10th by application to the Local Health Authority of the Liwa. Such renewal will be made free of charge. If any person fail to renew within the period aforesaid, his name will be removed from the register and the Director of Public Health may, at his discretion, make a charge not exceeding the original registration fee for the reinstatement of his name in the register.

5. Any doctor or dentist of 'Iraq or foreign nationality engaged in practice in 'Iraq on the date of coming into force of this law, shall be deemed to be registered under Article 4.

6. The Director of Public Health is authorised, with the approval of the Minister of Interior in the interests of existing practitioners, to specify from time to time areas in which foreign doctors or dentists other than those specified in Article 4 hereof may not practice. Any doctor or dentist who contravenes the provisions of this Article shall be deemed to be guilty of professional misconduct and sub-section 2 of Article 11 shall apply in connection with practice carried on in the prohibited area.

No doctor or dentist may own a pharmacy except under the provision of Section 23 of the Pharmacy Law, 1923.

7. A doctor may not style himself a specialist in any branch of medicine without permission of the Director of Public Health who may refuse such permission unless he satisfies himself by enquiry or by examination by the High Health Council as he shall deem necessary that such doctor has everything essential for the practice of his special work.



8. Any doctor or dentist sentenced by the Courts of Iraq to imprisonment for six months, shall have his name erased from the register of doctors or dentists. He may apply for reinstatement on the register not less than one year after the completion of his sentence.

9. Should the Director of Public Health consider that any doctor or dentist has committed such malpractice as to necessitate enquiry, he will refer the matter to the High Health Council for investigation. The High Health Council will forward their report and recommendation to the Director of Public Health. Such recommendations, in the event of the punishment of the offender being proposed, may extend to the removal of this offender's name from the register of doctors or dentists for a period not exceeding one year. The Director of Public Health shall carry out the recommendation of the High Health Council if he approves it, but if he does not approve it, the matter should be referred to the Minister of the Interior, whose decision shall be final.

10. With the approval of the Minister of the Interior, the Director of Public Health may from time to time issue regulations governing the following matters :—

- (1) The notification of Infectious Diseases.
- (2) The qualifications of Dental Mechanics, Dressers, Vaccinators, Midwives and Nurses, the conditions under which they may be authorised to practice, the manner in which they shall conduct their practice and the conditions under which they may be prohibited or suspended from practice.
- (3) The registration of addresses and other matters ancillary to the practice of medicine.

#### *Punishments.*

11. (i) Any person practising or attempting to practise or who shall use any style, title or sign implying that he is authorised to practise medicine or any branch thereof without being duly registered or authorised under the provisions of this law, and any person employing another who is not duly authorised to practise under the provisions of this law, or employing an agent or canvasser for advertising or publishing advertisements to mislead the public opinion, and any person contravening the regulations issued by the Director of Public Health on protective measures shall be liable upon conviction before a Magistrate to a fine not exceeding Rs. 1,000 or to imprisonment not exceeding six months or to both fine and imprisonment.

(ii) Such person shall be debarred from suing in a court of law for any fees claimed by him in respect of such unlawful practice and any person who has paid fees to him in connection with such unlawful practice, shall be entitled to recover the same.

12. The punishment for a first offence against Article 6 of this law shall be a fine of Rs. 200, for the second offence a fine of Rs. 200 and the court shall, in addition, order confiscation of all drugs in the Pharmacy and their delivery to the Director of Public Health. No such order for confiscation shall be made except at the request of the Director of Public Health.

13. Articles 4, 5 and 11 (ii) of this law do not apply to officials of the Iraq Government Health Service or of the Iraq Army Medical Service.

14. In all legal proceedings connected with this law, the certificate of the Director of Public Health as to whether a person is or is not registered or authorised to practise shall be conclusive.



15. The following enactments are *repealed* as from the date of coming into force of this Law :—

- (1) The Medical and Dental Practitioners Proclamation, 1920.
- (2) The Hakims and Midwives Proclamation, 1920, and the Amendment thereof dated 13th September, 1920, and all previous laws and regulations concerning the practice of medicine in Iraq, provided that the following regulations shall subsist and be deemed to be regulations issued under Article 10 hereof.

Dental Mechanics Regulations.

Dressers Regulations.

16. This Law shall come into force one month after the date of its publication in the *Official Gazette*.

17. The Minister of Interior is charged with the execution of this Law.

Made at Baghdad this 18th day of March, 1925, and 22nd day of Sha'ban, 1343.

FAISAL.

Prime Minister,

Y. AL HASHIMI.

Minister of Interior,

'ABDUL MUHSIN.